30 1947 General 7532

Lynching Keeps
Daily World
Negro In His
30
Atlanta, Ga.
gen.
Place, Writer Says
Tue., 11-4-47

By CONRAD CLARK

PHILADELPHIA— (ANP)— "Lynching is simply a bold and spectacular devise to keep the Negro in his place," Thomas J. Harte, in a condensed article from "Perpetual help," which appeared in a recent "Catholic Digest."

Citing that "Lynching is murder" the writer continues to give a summary of lynchings as far back as 1897. Tue. 11-4-47

"Lynching is but one phase in the American pattern of race discrimination just anther aspect of a general policy in subjugating the Negro, of denying him his basic natural rights as a child of God, of curtailing his inalienable civic rights as an American citizen," he contiues.

"In Georgia a Negro is lynched occasionally to deter all Georgia Negroes from demanding their fundamental human rights. In many of our northern communities the same effect is achieved by segregating the Negro, and refusing him equal employment and educational opportunities." Daily World

Citing statistics, the writer stated that in the last 50 years there have been almost 4,000 lynchings in the U. S. Atlanta, Ga.

Most of them have occurred in the south, he says, and, about 80 percent of the victims were Negroes, lynching being ordinarily and correctly associated with the Negro-white race problem. Tue. 11-4-47

It is "an immoral, illegal and barbaric device sometimes employed by white men to terrorize and sugjugate the Negro," he asserts.

30 1947 General

7533

Congress Winks at Anti-Lynching Bills As Mobs Run Amuck

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier Sat. 6-14-47

30 gen.

By **TREZZVANT W. ANDERSON**, Staff Writer

Lynching, murder and mob violence are the order of the day in the South . . . and the Federal Government stands by helplessly, as millions of Southern Negroes are terrorized and live in fear for the safety of their lives and families. Since V-J Day, twenty-nine Negroes have been slain, and hundreds beaten or abused . . . and in not one instance has a mobster been punished!

True, the Department of Justice has rushed agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation into action as soon as word was received of any outbreak.

But it is equally as true, that when their investigations were finished and the evidence turned over to local authorities for prosecution, in the absence of Federal jurisdiction, nothing happened other than verdicts of acquittal for any mobsters accused and brought to trial.

Sat. 6-14-47

* * *

SOUTHERN WHITE JURORS are not going to convict Southern white defendants charged with violence against Negroes. That has been indisputably proven during the past four months by several actual demonstrations, which point to the actual need of Federal anti-lynching laws which will provide mandatory penalties.

Five white men who admitted complicity in the murder of John C. Jones, a war veteran, at Minden, La., were declared "not guilty" by a jury in Shreveport, La., a few months ago.

The infamous jury decision at Greenville, S. C., in the trial of thirty-one whites indicted for the lynching of Willie Earle, was another glaring example of the fact that Southern whites, who likewise had admitted complicity in signed statements to FBI agents, had nothing to fear, for their victim was a Negro. They were all set free!

Indicative of the effect of the mob rule now existing in this country is the fact that in French North Africa, the Communists quickly seized upon the lynching trial exonerations and are now using them to spearhead strong anti-United States campaigns. "Truman and his Negro lynchers" became the pet phrase.

This should be significant, since use of the American Negro terror wave by Communists in the three French North African countries is merely a prelude to its general use throughout Europe, especially in the Balkans and in the Middle East.

30 gen.

* * *

THE PROSECUTION of these cases has been in the hands of State and local authorities, because they did not come under Federal jurisdiction.

Of course, everyone is aware of those fine words in the preamble to the U. S. Constitution which mention certain "inalienable rights" including "life, liberty," but, unfortunately, the U. S. Government has nothing in its statutes with which it can insure those rights . . . if you are a Negro . . . and those who would deprive you of them belong to the white race. The pictures on this page very clearly show that.

It seems that there was a certain fear within the South that Negroes returning from war service would seek better conditions under which to live or work. It was also feared that their association with white women in European and other nations might make them still wish such association here.

Of course, these latter fears were stupid and groundless, but they gave prejudiced Southern whites an EXCUSE which they could use to "keep the Negro in his place" and whenever he stepped out of line, naturally, a lynching or a beating followed.

* * *

LYNCHERS DIDN'T (and still don't) have to worry about a little thing like being punished for a crime against a Negro. Of course, Negroes have to worry about crimes against whites. But that's where America's "democracy" is putting her on the carpet with other nations which have heard her pretty words about "democracy."

Events of the past few months have ripped the cloak from American hypocrisy in the matter of decent treatment of her Negro population—one-tenth of the whole. The eyes of the world are looking, expectantly, to see what the U. S. Government, so strong and powerful away from home, is going to do about it here at home.

Despite the determined work of FBI agents who have secured evidence even where State and local authorities were almost completely indifferent, there still remains no legal ground upon which the Federal authorities can prosecute mobsters.

Thus it is, that the bills now being introduced in the House and Senate are looked to hopefully. Both those statutes provide stiff penalties for lynching which would be made a Federal offense, and break down mob content to just two persons committing illegal violence against any person or the property of citizens.

* * *

ANTI-LYNCH LAWS have been urged before. In almost every session of Congress during the past twenty-six years some sort of bill has come up. But few have made even the smallest progress.

In 1938, Southern Senators staged a filibuster (the usual procedure) which lasted for seven weeks. In these antics, Senators rise and talk about any and everything. One even sang a few songs during the course of a speech. Congressional rules have not been amended to allow cloture to be invoked. Cloture is the act of putting an end to debate on subjects after a certain time limit. Thus anti-lynching measures have died a-borning.

The necessity for Federal laws can be more clearly understood when it is realized that, under Federal jurisdiction, judges can be brought in from distant points, who would be without bias or fear. Juries could be impaneled which would include Negroes, and Federal juries would, to a large extent, discount that "community feeling" idea which has impelled white Southern juries to free their neighbors, even though they knew those neighbors to be guilty.

Sat. 6-14-47

* * *

AMERICA IS NOW ON TRIAL. The Attorney General has admitted the impotency of the present Federal laws, and the world has seen the result. America is losing its position as an exponent of "democracy" except in words. That is lessening the respect which nations of the globe hold for this country. They will continue to accept American money to help their own countries, which is only natural, but behind our backs they are smirking at an America which talks pretty, and still allows the democratic rights of its largest minority group to be flaunted with absolute impunity.

Only the passage of firm anti-lynch laws can put this Nation in a position to redeem itself in the eyes of the world. Today, America stands stripped stark naked, and exposed!

Lynch Victims Since V-J Day

30 gen.

GEORGIA: 8

JULY 20, 1946 — MACIO

SNIPES, a veteran and the sole Negro to register for voting in Rupert's District, Taylor City, killed at Butler, Ga. . . . no arrests.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

JULY 25, 1946—MR. and MRS. GEORGE DORSEY and MR. and MRS. ROGER MALCOLM shot and killed by a mob at Monroe, Ga. . . . no arrests.

Courier

JULY 29, 1946 — HARRISON JOHNSON, shot, pistol-whipped and killed at Eatonton, Ga. . . . no arrests.

AUG. 3, 1946—JOHN C. GILBERT, a union organizer, shot and killed at Gordon, Ga. . . . no arrests.

MAY 20, 1947 . . . HENRY (PEG) GILBERT, jailed outside his native county, beaten and shot to death inside the Harris County jail at Hamilton, Ga. . . . no arrests.

Sat. 6-14-47

ALABAMA: 4

FALL OF 1945—E. B. THOMAS, shot to death by police at Union Springs, Ala. . . . no arrests.

FEB. 8, 1946 — TIMOTHY HOOD, a Marine veteran, killed by police chief at Birmingham, Ala. . . . no arrests.

SEPT. 9, 1946—WILLIE PIM LOCKWOOD, killed by a deputy sheriff at Tuskegee, Ala. . . . no arrests.

NOV. 27, 1946— SAMUEL WATSON, killed by police at Selma, Ala. . . . no arrests.

MISSISSIPPI: 4

AUG. 25, 1945 — EUGENE BELLS, slain at Liberty, Miss. . . . no arrests.

SEPT. 8, 1945—TOM JONES JR., killed by police at Woodville, Miss. . . . no arrests.

JULY 22, 1946 — LEON McTATIE, killed at Lexington, Miss. . . . six arrests; no convictions.

JULY 24, 1946 — BUDDIE WOLF, killed "resisting arrest" at Hattiesburg, Miss. . . no arrests.

FLORIDA: 3

SEPT. 21, 1945—SAM McFADDEN, slain at Branford, Fla. . . . three arrests, no convictions.

OCT. 11, 1945 — JESSE J. PAYNE, taken from jail and killed at Madison, Fla. . . . no arrests.

Sat. 6-14-47

OCT. 30, 1945 — GEORGE FLOYD, slain at St. Augustine,

BOX SCORE

Since V-J Day)

30

LYNCHINGS	29
BEATINGS	10
Mobsters arrested	56
Mobsters convicted	None
Awaiting trial	8

Beatings and Other Forms Of Violence

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier Sat. 6-14-47

30

LOUISIANA: 3

Aug. 8, 1946—ALBERT HARRIS (companion of John C. Jones) shot and left for dead at Minden, La.

Aug. 23, 1946—JOHN A. JONES brutalized by Louisiana State patrolman.

Nov. 27, 1946—UNIDENTIFIED NEGRO WOMAN assaulted in St. John the Baptist Parish.

GEORGIA: 2

June 12, 1946—E. E. BROWN critically wounded at Columbus, Ga.

Jan. 1, 1947—GOLDEN LAMARR HOWARD, beaten by four whites at Monroe, Ga. . . . two whites indicted . . . no convictions.

MISSISSIPPI: 2

Aug. 15, 1945—HELTON LEA, beaten at Liberty, Miss.

June 6, 1946—E. FLETCHER, a veteran who tried to vote at Brandon, Miss., flogged with wire cable.

SOUTH CAROLINA: 2

Feb. 13, 1946—ISAAC WOODARD, war veteran . . . eyes gouged out after brutal beating by chief of police at Batesburg, S. C. . . . officer indicted; acquitted.

Sept. 9, 1946—SERGT. FREDDY PRYOR shot at Elko, S. C.

ALABAMA: 1

May 29, 1946 — NAPOLEON RIVERS, beaten by police at Mobile, Ala.

Sat. 6-14-47

It should be recalled that there were frequent instances of mass brutality. In Columbia, Tenn., 103 Negroes were arrested, assaulted and otherwise intimidated in the infamous riot there on Feb. 25 and 26, 1946. Forty Negro draftees were arrested and beaten at Columbus, Ga., on April 17, 1946. A group of Negroes, number unknown, were beaten and trampled by a mob in Athens, Ga., on Aug. 10, 1946. Unlisted and unreported incidents, naturally, are abundant.

Fla. . . . no arrests.

LOUISIANA: 2

FEB. 1946 — NATHAN TAYLOR, shot by deputy sheriff at Gretna, La. . . . no arrests.

AUG. 8, 1946—JOHN C. JONES, a veteran, beaten, mutilated and killed at Minden, La. . . . five arrests . . . no convictions.

NORTH CAROLINA: 2

AUG. 16, 1946—J. C. FARMER, a veteran, shot at Bailey, N. C. . . . no arrests.

NOV. 18, 1946—DAN CARTER SANDERS, slain in Johnson County near Smithfield, N. C. . . . no arrests.

SOUTH CAROLINA: 2

AUG. 16, 1946—JAMES WALKER Jr., killed at Elko, S. C., for "disrespect to white folks" . . . no arrests.

FEB. 17, 1947 — WILLIE EARLE, taken from jail, knifed, beaten, mutilated, shot and killed by identified mob at Pickens, S. C., near Greenville. Thirty-one arrests . . . no convictions. Sat-6-14-47

TENNESSEE: 2

FEB. 26, 1946—JAMES JOHNSON and WILIE GORDON, killed in Columbia, Tenn., in jail . . . no indictments.

ARKANSAS: 1

DEC. 4, 1946 — WILLIAM CLARK, "disappeared" from the Arkansas City Prison Farm . . . later reported dead . . . no indictments.

TEXAS: 1

FEB. 25, 1946—KENNY LONG, a Navy veteran, slain at El Campo, Tex. . . . no arrests.

* * *

Only an "act of God" provided the miracle by which Godwin (Buddy) Bush failed to join the number of lynchees in Jackson, N. C., two weeks ago . . . eight arrests.

LILLIAN SMITH SAYS ALL WHO TAKE PART IN OR CONDONE MOB VIOLENCE ARE MENTALLY SICK

The Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City, Okla

Calls For Help of Entire Nation to Stop Disgrace of Lynching

Sat. 7-5-47

CASE BILL SHOULD BE PASSED

(30) genl

By Lillian Smith
Author of Strange Fruit

I am thinking today of the sad and tragic events that have piled up so tall a monument to racial hate this past year.

Most of them have occurred close to my home here in Georgia, Walton county, with its four lynched . . . Greenville, S. C. where a jury set 26 men free who had confessed to a lynching . . . Now the attempted lynching in Jackson, N. C.

Three small events that cast a long shadow across the world.

They were sick men who lynched that Negro at Greenville. Sick men composed that jury who threw justice away like a cheap thing. Sick men lynched and sick men protected the lynchers in Walton county. Men made sick by hate and fear and ignorance, and by a culture that too often and too long has given the green light to mob violence and mob hate. Every man on that jury, every lyncher, every potential lyncher, will tell you: "Keep the rest of the country out of this; this is our business."

Sat-7-5-47

Are we too, going to chalk a circle around each racial crime and tell the rest of the work to "Keep out?" Or are we ready now to take over this emergency and handle it in a mature and sane manner?

There comes a turning point in men's affairs when new decisions must be made to void profound disaster. What we do next about lynching and mob violence may well be the test case that will decide our capacity for cooperating with the world in this time of desperate need.

A state, a region, can no more handle recial emergencies alone handle racial emergencies alone sults of a flood or tornado. Our people's prejudice has over-flowed the bounds of reason. Increased by world tensions, whipped on by a loose-floating hate that is sweeping the minds of men everywhere, it has reached proportions so destructive of law and order and justice and human values that only the fool, or the sick, can now say, "Leave us alone and we'll handle it."

30 genl

For 65 years we have been saying that. And during those 65 years we have had 4,982 lynchings. Only 1 percent of these lynchings has received a sentence, even of the mildest nature. And nearly every sentence has been suspended.

This is the picture of justice meted out to mob violence that America holds up for the rest of the world to look at.

And now? Four men and women lynched last summer in Georgia. No one Punished. A lynching in South Carolina by cab drivers who confessed their guilt. No one Punished. Despite the personal courage of judge and prosecuting attorney the jury refused to punish. Now a new lynching in North Carolina.

Sat-7-5-47

There is one right thing to do and we must do it. We must stop mob violence in this country. But we in the South are not strong enough to swing this job alone and we must face up to our weakness. We need the full cooperation of our entire nation.

We are asking our own people to help us now, Americans like ourselves, whose concern it is and who should share in this responsibility. Only by our securing a Federal bill against lynching can we draw fully onup the resources of our government and our Federal courts to help us meet this cultural disaster.

Together, we American citizens, north and south, can and must see to it that such a bill is passed. The Case bill nor vengeful. This bill should be passed. We can write letters to our Congressmen, letters to our newspapers, we can talk to our neighbors, we can discuss this at our clubs and we can pass this bill if we want to.

Americans for Democratic Action is a group of citizens who, in democratic ways, are trying to make democracy work in this country and throughout the world. Give them your money and your support; do it now while we have the chance to stop this infamy. Send $1,000 if you can or $1. But do not permit this day to pass without registering your protest against these crimes which unchecked will drag America down.

As a southerner and a human being, I believe this is the urgent task before us today, the most immediately pressing. Each racial crime in America now is like a bell tolling across the earth, telling the people everywhere that democracy is dead. We must stop that sound.

Presidential Aid Demanded For New Laws

(30) genl

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill.

FBI Seeks Identity Of Men Who Tried To Lynch 3 In South

Sat. 5-31-47

WASHINGTON—The acquittal of 28 confessed members of a lynch mob in Greenville, S. C., and a wave of attempted lynch assaults during the past week brought nationwide demands upon President Truman and Congress this week for federal anti-lynch legislation and made the United States vulnerable to criticism from abroad.

Meanwhile, acting under orders of U.S. Attorney General Tom Clark, FBI agents were reportedly at work in three southern states in an effort to discover the identity of persons involved in the latest lynch attempts. Sat 5-31-47

Escapes Lynch Mob

1—Most dramatic of the assaults against established law processes occurred in North Carolina where Godwin Bush who was snatched from Northampton jail early Friday was in custody of state authorities at Raleigh Monday.

Bush, who was threatened with mutilation by mobbists after he was kidnapped, made a successful dash for freedom, hid out in the North Carolina swamps for 48 hours, then surrendered to FBI agents through an intermediary, Rev. Johnson, a rural minister.

The 24-year-old youth had been arrested at Rich Jackson after an attempt had been made to attack a white woman.

Moved For Safekeeping

2—The attempted lynching of Bush was the second in Northampton county in recent weeks. Willie Cherry, arrested in Rich Square on charges of attacking Mrs. J. G. Tarrant, wife of an oil company representative, was removed to central prison at Raleigh, state capital, for safekeeping after mob action was threatened.

3—Another lynching was averted in South Carolina, where 28 confessed lynchers were acquitted last week, when Willie Pooler, arrested Sunday on a charge of raping a 67-year-old white woman was transferred to the state penitentiary at Columbia, the capital, "for safekeeping against possible mob violence."

(30) genl

Lynching Threatened

4—In Forest City, Ark., attempts were made to organize a lynch mob after Will Lee Dukes, 40-year-old farmhand was tracked down and captured by a posse using bloodhounds. Dukes is reported to have confessed killing Mrs. Ethel Ellis Boyd, a white taxicab operator.

Meeting during a week that established a record for threatened mob action against Negroes, members of the National Negro Publishers association drew up a petition to President Truman urging him to throw the influence of his administration behind federal anti-lynching legislation now pending in Congress. Sat. 5-31-47

Another Probe Underway

Even before the reaction of the President could be learned, Attorney General Clark announced that he would investigate the possibility of bringing civil rights action against the South Carolina lynch defendants.

He said he would make a personal investigation of the evidence to see if it could not be used to prove that the right of life is a federally secured right.

Criticism of the action of the jury in the Willie Earle case was unanimous and widespread. Practically every newspaper, columnist and radio commentater expressed disapproval of the jury's verdict.

Governors Speak Out

Though carefully avoiding making statements that might be construed as endorsement of anti-lynch legislation, Governors Gregg Cherry, of North Carolina, and Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina, spoke out strongly against mob action.

Great Britain stinging under American criticism of how it is handling the Palestine situation. seized upon the rising tide of violence in the South to strike back at U.S. critics.

In editorials widely circulated throughout England, the United States was criticized for being unable to cope with the lynch problem in the South. Sat. 5-31-47

30a 1947 Florida (1945) 7497

Gov. Caldwell's Libel Suit Ordered Retried

The News

(30a) Fla.

NEW ORLEANS, April 23—(AP)—A suit by Gov. Millard F. Caldwell, of Florida, asking $500,000 damages from the publishers of Colliers magazine for alleged libel, has been remanded here by the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to the Northern District of Florida for trial. Birmingham, Ala.

The suit was against the Crowell-Collier Publishing Company, a Delaware corporation, which the court said published alleged libelous statements in an editorial in Colliers. Wed. 4-23-47

The Appellate Court reversed judgment of District Judge Augustine V. Long, who had dismissed the suit at Gainesville, Fla.

The Appellate Court opinion said the governor claimed Colliers had published false statements about him in connection with Caldwell's comments on an investigation of the death of a Negro in Madison, Fla.

In remanding the suit, the Appellate Court said, "We think a case of libel is alleged," adding that "privilege and want of malice should await final decision on the trial." News

In discussing the privilege of publication as related to a public officer by a public press, the Appellate Court concluded: 30a Fla.

"Free speech and free press are an established part of our democratic institutions, but both are limited by the law of slander and libel." 4-23-47

30a 1947 General

7489

Must Safeguard Prisoners

News & Courier

Peace officers, sworn to uphold the law, would do the South great service if they would think more quickly in the selection of places to safeguard their prisoners in certain cases. The ease with which mobs can snatch prisoners from small town jails has enabled them to perpetrate lynchings that have blackened the name of the South. Local police usually can recognize cases likely to inflame the feelings of the mob, and when they make such an arrest they should move the prisoners to a place of safety as a matter of routine.

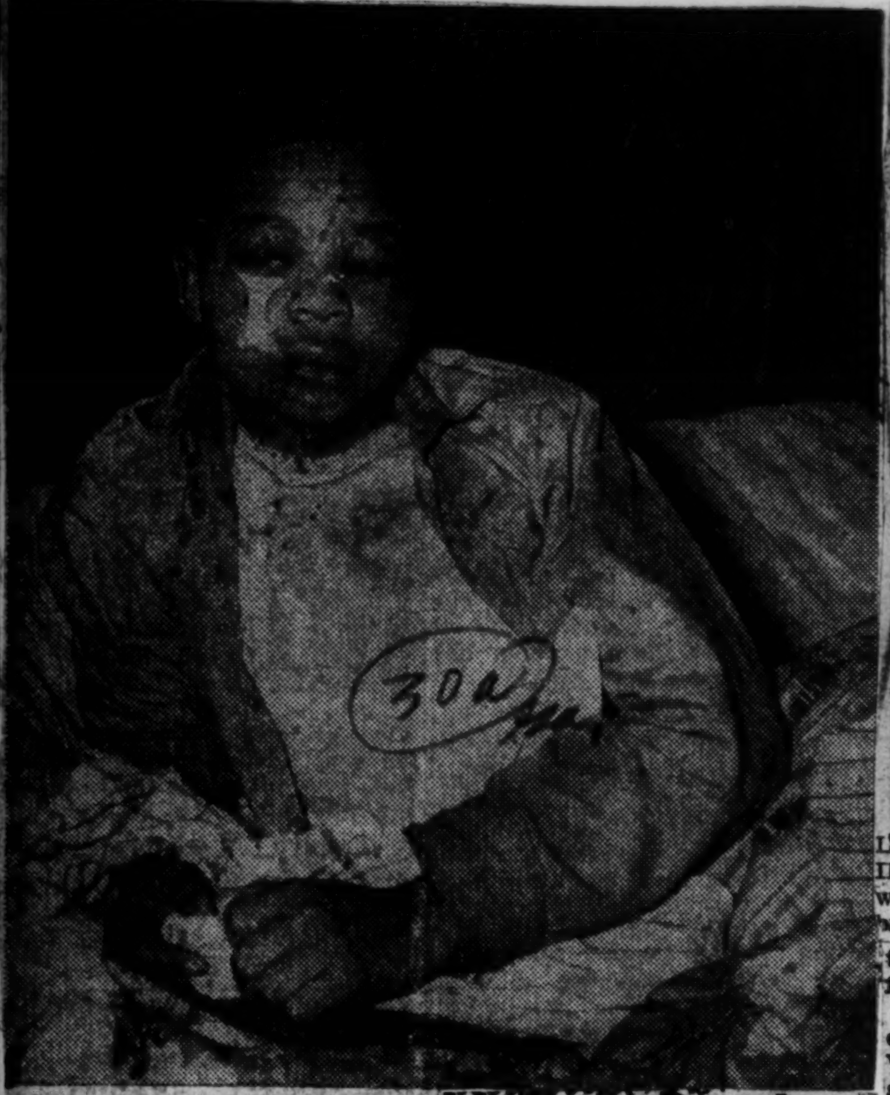
Charleston, S.C.

Notable progress has been made in this line, due principally to the development of good roads and to the use of radio in police communications. The Tuskegee records indicate steady reduction in the number of lynchings through the years.

Wed. 5-28-47

Even though the policemen and the jailers themselves may share the sentiments of the mob, and to our sorrow we believe this has been a factor in some lynchings, there must be professional compulsion to protect prisoners from brutality and to let the law take its course. With modern transportation, no place is so remote that a determined sheriff cannot arrange safe conduct to the state penitentiary. Lynchings are a form of disorder that indicate lack of sufficient policing. Other sections of this country, other countries of the world, have forms of disorder that result in suffering and death, sometimes in more barbarous fashion than lynching. The crimes of others are not an excuse for condoning crime, and lynching is murder. It can and must be prevented.

7479



LYNCHERS' (?) HANDIWORK — This closeup view of Lamar Howard 19-year-old near-Monroe resident and witness in the Athens federal grand jury hearings shows the effects less than 24 hours after two white men brutally tried to beat out of the victim what he had told the grand jurors. Note the swollen face and lips, the closed left eye, the half closed right eye, and the blood on his jacket and sweatshirt. According to his relatives, his head was nearly twice this size Wednesday night. Massage and medical application had brought down the swelling, particularly of his forehead, where blows with fists and a gun butt were rained mercilessly upon the witness who probably too closely identified at least one of the lynchers or had hot circumstantial testimony. Howard didn't resist for fear of being killed. (W. A. Scott III Photo.

Atlantan Ask Early Trials In

Daily World

Monroe Beating

Tues. 1-7-47

Citizens Urged To Send Messages To Att'y Gen. Clark

30a Ga.

Evidencing their concern over the recent beating of a Walton County youth in connection with his testimony before a federal Grand Jury last December, several hundred citizens here Monday night authorized the sending of telegrams to U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark, urging that the two men charged with the crime be brought to a speedy trial.

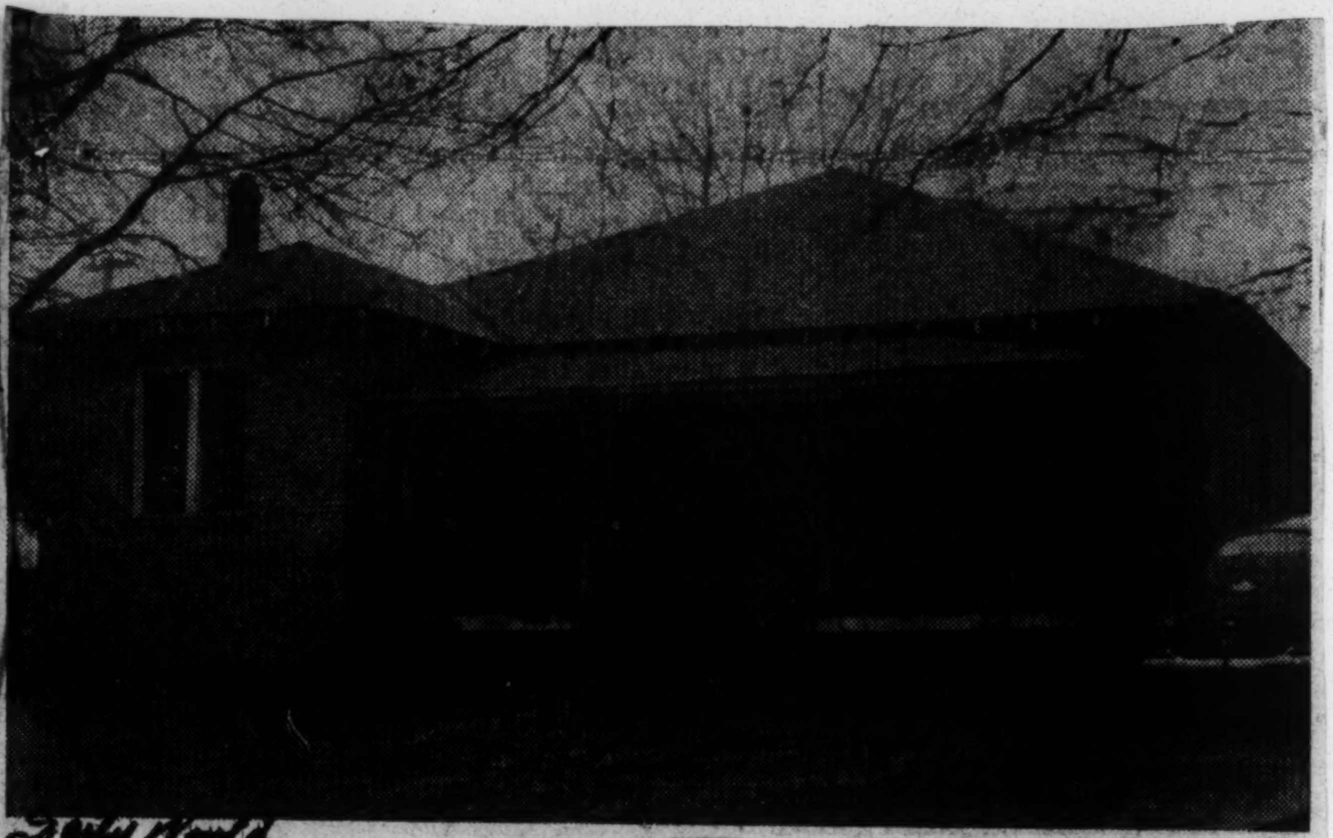
The youth, Lamar Howard, who was a victim of a brutal attack on January 1 at the ice plant where he was employed, charges that James and Tom Verner, white men, assaulted him. The two latter persons are now under federal bond of $10,000 each. James Verner is reported to have been questioned by the Grand Jury in connection with the July 25th lynching which took four lives

The message sent to Mr Clark commends the swift arrest of the Verner Brothers, and asked that a speedy trial be held. The telegram which was signed by Dr. William Holmes Borders, Pastor of the Wheat Street Baptist Church and Chairman of the Citizens Democratic Committee. The telegram follows:

"Attorney General Tom Clark
"Department of Justice
"Washington, D. C.

"We commend swiftness of action by Federal Bureau of Investigation in arresting James and Tom Verner for brutal beating of Lamar Howard in connection with testimony latter gave relative to last July quarruple Monroe lynching. We also commend vigorous action by District Attorney Cowart. However, considering gravity of charges and welfare of other colored witnesses we respectfully urge order immediate Grand Jury action on charges against Verners. We also suggest the possibility of transferring the case to another division of the Court."

C. A. Scott, editor of The Atlanta Daily World, told the part the World played in getting young Howard to Atlanta and report to the authorities. Tues. 1-7-47



Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

LOCALE OF REPORTED BEATING—This is the Monroe ice plant where Lamar Howard suffered a brutal beating at the hands of two assailants who wanted to know what he told the Athens federal grand u. during the three week's probe ito the Walton County lynchings. Howard said he was beaten up in the office of the plant and outside in a rear cow-stall. (W. A. Scott III Photo)

Brief inspirational talks were by John Wesley Dobbs, Waren Cochrane, A. T. Walden and Rev. W. F. Paschall. All speakers stressed the importance of our group perparing to make great personal and financial sacrifices and achieve our full citizenship rights and protection.

The meeting was held at the Wheat Street Baptist Church and Dr. Wm. Holmes Borders, Chairman of the State Defense Committee, presided and made an appeal for additional funds. The total amount raised is over $9,000 of which $5,000 is earmarked for rewards.

ACQUITTED IN NEGRO CASE

N.Y., N.Y. ~~Times~~

Georgian Accused of Beating Freed—Mistrial for Brother

30a

ATHENS, Ga., June 3 (U.P.)—A Federal court jury today acquitted one of two brotherse charged with beating a Negro witness in a Walton County lynching inquiry. It could not reach an agreement in the case of the other, Judge Fort Davis called a mistrial.

Tom Verner was freed, but the jury was hopelessly locked in the case of his brother, James Verner.

James Verner admitted in testifying that he had "beat the hell out of" Lamar Howard, but denied Howard's testimony before a Grand Jury that the lynchings motivated the beating.

He added that he had beaten Howard "because he tried to run me off the road with his car several times." Wed. 6-4-47

Tom Verner told the jury that he did not lay hands on Howard, but went with his brother to an ice house where Howard worked and watched while James beat him.

7479

Another Monroe Clue

Black Dispatch Oklahoma City, Okla.

Immediately following the brutal slaying of four Negroes by a mob at Monroe, Georgia, last summer, this writer suggested the important man to quiz was Loy Harrison, the man purportedly transporting the victims of the mob to work on his farm. We thought then and we think now that this man Harrison, who was subsequently disclosed having an unsavory record in the whiskey traffic, should have been held incommunicado until he talked. (30a) Ga. (Wit-

Of course this opportunity to secure definite information respecting the personnel of the mob was muffed, and we suspect intentionally, in a community that sanctions the periodic slaughter of human beings guilty of the crime of possessing a black skin.

But there should be slight question regarding evidence of a definite clue, leading to the lair of the lynchers, when in open daylight a Negro youth who had exercised his duty as a citizen and appeared before a Walton county jury, was immediately taken into custody by two lawless white men and beaten unmercifully because he gave certain testimony as demanded, by constituted authority regarding the movement of certain citizens in Walton county during the period the Monroe mob was in action.

The youth, when brought to Atlanta by the editor of the Atlanta World, told this story of terror and inhuman inquisition: Sat. 1-11-47

"I was sitting in the office of the ice plant Wednesday afternoon about 4:30 when the two men walked in.

"One of them knocked my hat off and threw it on the floor. Then one of them asked me what I told the grand jury and I said 'I didn't tell 'em nothing because I didn't know nothing.'

"One of the men cussed me and said 'You're telling a lit' and started hitting me in the face with his fist. Then he pulled out a pistol and grabbed me by the arm, and said 'I ought to shoot you.'

"They took me out the back and into a cow stall there and started beating me with their fists some more. I didn't try to fight back because I was afraid if I did they would kill me.

"They asked me if I told the grand jury that they came to the ice plant on the day of the lynching and cleaned some guns. I told them I didn't.

"One of them was asking me questions but the other one was beating me in the face so that I couldn't answer. I told them if they'd just quit beating me, maybe I could tell them something. They stopped a minute, then hit me some more with their fists and over the head with the pistol.

"They finally quit and told me, 'You go out there and get in your car and go home and don't let it quit 'til you get there.' I went on home and they followed me in their car but they didn't come to the house."

Now the state police and the FBI know when a crime is committed the first decision peace officers attempt is to determine the motive. "Why was this crime committed?" is the first and elementary question that obtrudes in the detection and apprehension of criminals. If law enforcing agencies can settle the question of motive, all else is comparatively easy of solution.

"Did you tell the grand jury that we came to the ice plant and cleaned some guns the day of the lynching?" That's one of the questions asked by the terrorists as they clubbed Lamar Howard. It is not difficult for one to conclude what was on the minds of these two outlaws when they seized Lamar Howard. They felt Howard had connected them with the mob-murder of the two men and the two women lynched last July 25 near Monroe, Georgia. We do not have to seek any further for motive. We know now that the men who inhumanly clubbed and beat Lamar Howard are feaful that they may be connected with that revolting crime that has shamed America and made a shambles of our democratic pretentions.

The question arises then on whether or not these men were not members of the mob. If they were not members of the mob their violent emotions, generated when they learned Lamar Howard had given certain testimony, leads one to assume that they have close associates who were members of that marble-hearted band of murderers whom the law seeks to detect and apprehend. Sat, 1-11-47

In addition to this, it appears to the Black Dispatch that certain members of the grand jury have subjected themselves to doubt and suspicion. How does it happen that men interested in visiting violence upon witnesses, who appeared in that lynch hearing, secured definite information as to the testimony of certain witnesses? The men who clubbed Lamar Howard had the exact text of his statement to the jury. Who was it that left the jury room and went direct to enraged and inflamed citizens with information regarding what the Negro witness said? Look's as though friends of the mob secured membership on the jury panel.

Threaded through the merciless torture and clubbing of Lamar Howard and the evidence that proves some member of the grand jury transmitted to sympathizers of the mob information regarding Howard's testimony, one can easily see hypocrisy creeping into the portals of the law. It might not be obvious in this moment, but so surely as men lose confidence in government. government dies. Americans are inclined to feel that a special dispensation divines our ends, but same day, when perhaps it is much too late, we are going to discover that in our calloused atmosphere of insincerity and pretense, the substance of freedom, democracy and justice was completely casterated from our way of life.

The failure of law enforcing agencies in Walton County, Georgia ,to identify any of the members of the mob that wantonly slew four innocent black men and women is a serious indictment of community life in America. It is indefensible to argue that in a densely populated county there is no one who could offer evidence that would lead to the apprehension of these murderers. It means that the entire community condones mob murder, and measured by that yardstick, there are no good white people in such a political unit. (30a) Ga.

Aside from the city, county and state police, the FBI has been on the job since last July in Walton County, Georgia. With all of our boasted fingerprinting, ballistic tests, radio equipment, swift transportation facilities, lie detectors and third degrees, no one has been able to pierce the conspiracy of silence that surrounds Walton County, Georgia. Integrity has been cast to oblivion. The Christian church lacks moral fiber and the home nurtures unholy offsprings who feed on human gore, in an atmosphere where human beings sink so low in the gutter of degeneration they turn their backs upon God's First Commandment.

Negro Refuses To Tell Lynching Testimony Is Beaten By Brothers

News-Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.
Sun. 1-5-47

BY ED FAIN

ATHENS, Ga., Jan. 4—(AP)—Two brothers, one a soldier on leave were arrested by the FBI Saturday and charged with beating a Negro witness who refused to divulge his testimony before a Federal Grand Jury investigating the Walton County lynchings.

District Atty. James P. Cowart said Golden Lamar Howard, 19, the Negro who was beaten, identified the brothers, Bradley Verner, 36, and Tom Verner, 26, by name, as his assailants.

Howard, the district attorney said, told federal officers the two men came to him New Year's Day at the ice plant in Monroe where he worked and when he did not reveal his testimony beat him with their fists and a pistol.

"I couldn't tell them nothing, because I didn't know nothing," Howard said. Sun. 1-5-47

The Verners waived preliminary hearings before U. S. Commissioner J. T. Middlebrooks, and were released on $10,000 bonds.

The brothers, both residents of Walton County, were picked up by FBI agents at Gratis, Ga. The agents said a .38 caliber revolver and a German Luger were found in James Verner's room. Tom Verner, the soldier, is scheduled to report back to Ft. Bragg, N. C. Monday.

The Grand Jury before which Howard testified Dec. 19 that it was unable to identify any member of the mob which shot to death Roger Malcolm and George Dorsey and their wives on the banks of the Apalachee River last July.

News-Age-Herald

Saturday's arrest of the Verner brothers was the second formal accusation to tbe made in the long investigation though neither connected the accused persons with the lynching. Just before ending its investigations, the Grand Jury indicted George Alvin Adcock, of Monroe, on two charges of perjury in connections with his testimony before the jury. Sun. 1-5-47

FBI ARRESTS TWO IN LYNCHING CASE

The Times
New York, N.Y.
30a Ga. (Witnesses)

Brothers, One a Soldier, Are Accused of Beating Negro Witness in Georgia

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 4—The arrest of two brothers, charged with the beating of a witness in the recent Federal inquiry into Georgia's quadruple lynching, was disclosed today by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The two taken into custody were listed as James B. Verner, 36 years old, and Tom Verner, 28, both of Compton, Ga. They are alleged to have beaten Golden Lamar Howard, 19-year-old Negro. Howard told FBI agents he was beaten because he refused to reveal testimony he had given to a Federal grand jury. Sun. 1-5-47

The grand jury, after almost three weeks of inquiry, during which an estimated 100 witnesses were heard, reported it was unable to establish the identities of the persons who last summer shot to death two Negroes and their wives on a lonely road in Walton County near Monroe, Ga.

Beaten With a Pistol

The Citizens Defense Committee, a Negro group organized following the lynchings, brought Howard to Atlanta yesterday. Howard was admitted to a hospital, his face cut and battered and his eyes almost swollen shut. He said that the Verner brothers came to the ice plant at Monroe where he worked and beat him "ten or fifteen minutes with their fists and a pistol."

The complaint upon which the arrests were made was issued in Macon by James P. Cowart, Federal district attorney, who said that Howard knew the Verner brothers well.

J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the FBI, announced in Washington that the brothers were taken before United States Commissioner J. T. Middlebrooks at Athens and were released under bond of $10,000 each after waiving preliminary hearing.

The bonds were said to have been signed by H. Lee Peters of Walton County, who offered 316 acres of land as security.

Second Accusation in Case

Mr. Hoover said that a .38-caliber revolver and a German Luger were found in James Verner's room. He stated that Tom Verner was home on leave from military service and was under orders to report back to Fort Bragg Monday. The beating of Howard was said to have occurred on Wednesday.

Arrest of the two was the second formal accusation to be made in the long investigation of the killings of Roger Malcolm and his wife and George Dorsey and his wife.

In its inquiry, which ended Dec. 19, the Federal grand jury at Athens indicted George Alvin Adcock of Monroe on two counts of perjury in connection with his testimony before the jury. The indictments did not connect him with the lynchings.

Mr. Cowart said he assumed that the FBI would question the Verner brothers to determine if they knew anything about the lynching, in which about twenty persons took part.

So Far, So Good

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
30a

The swiftness with which the F. B. I. reached out from Washington and apprehended the two white men who are charged with brutally beating Lamar Howard for his alleged testimony before a federal grand jury investigating the last July Walton quadruple lynching is encouraging to all those who realize the seriousness of this charge. The men, however, were quickly released under a $10,000 bond each. The tampering with witnesses is a specific violation of federal law and, therefore, we hope a grand jury will be summoned as speedily as possible to hear the charges against the men charged with beating young Howard.

Tues.

In an editorial in Sunday's issue, commenting on the beating, The Atlanta Journal said in part: "It is heartening that arrests have been made by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that from the deplorable incident may come information which will lead eventually to a solution of the tragic mystery of last summer."

The Journal's editorial concluded: "In the meantime it is of vital importance that there be no terrorisum against those persons who possess information which may be of service in exposing the criminals, and that those who attempt by threat or violence to impede justice shall be given the extreme penalty of law."

In the past, no doubt, some Negroes have refused to become involved as witnesses in cases involving white people out of fear of reprisals, but we still contend all citizens should always come forward and give information that will aid the processes of law and justice,, otherwise we eventually will have chaos.

From all indications the Federal government will vigorously prosecute this and other cases of violence against its witnesses. 1-7-47

Clue In Monroe Uncovered

30a Ga. (Witnesses)

(From The New Republic)

Golden Lamar Howard, 19-year-old Negro, was puttering around an ice plant one afternoon last week in Monroe, the Walton County seat near which two Negroes and their wives were brutally lynched last Summer. Two men approached Howard and demanded that he tell them what he spilled to a Federal Grand Jury recently convened in an unsuccessful attempt to identify the still unpunished members of the lynch mob. 'Nothing,' said Howard, 'I didn't tell 'em nothing.'

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

The two men cursed and, while one of them pointed a pistol at the boy's head, marched him into a cow stall in the back of the ice-plant. There they bashed Howard across the face, alternating blows with their fists and the pistol butt. Then they sent the bruised and battered Negro home.

Young Howard fled to Atlanta to tell his story to the FBI. He identified his assailants as James and Tom Verner, the latter on Army leave from Fort Bragg. The two brothers were thereupon arraigned for Federal trial and each freed on a bond of $10,000. A Walton County neighbor immediately put up the bond. Wed. 1-15-47

Defiance Of The U. S. Law

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
Sat. 1-4-47

The brutal beating of a nineteen year old youth by two white men in an effort to extract from him testimony he had given a Federal Grand Jury inquiring into the quadruple lynching on July 25 at Monroe should arouse the indignation of all those who believe in law, order and common decency. 30a Geo.

The case in question is that of Lamar Howard, a 19 year old youth who lives near-Monroe. After being assured by representatives of the F. B. I. that he would be protected and nothing would happen to him if he did, his mother reluctantly agreed that he should go before the Federal Jury at Athens last December and tell them what he knew in connection with the most outrageous lynching in recent years. Howard willingly appeared but something did happen to him. With a revolver and their fists two white men unmercifully beat him about the face and head. His left eye is completely closed and greatly swollen.

Howard has told the F. B. I. and the press his story. He said he was beaten because he refused to tell two white men what he told the Grand Jury.

We consider this type of lawlessness worse than the lynching itself because witnesses can be beaten with impunity it will be difficult to get them to testify and without testimony there can be no convictions and in time law and order will be threatened.

But let us hope the Federal government will take prompt action and apprehend the guilty who are definitely known. Only this action will alleviate the situation.

Moreover, the apprehension of these men in this case should throw some further and convincing light on the identity of some of the lynchers. The World commends the prompt action that Chairman Borders of the Citizens Defense Committee has taken already in this case. 1-4-47

Government Forces Enter Monroe Youth Beating Case

30a Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Sat. 1-4-47

Arrest Of Two Assailants Said In Process

While Lamar Howard rested in an Atlanta hospital, recuperating from wounds inflicted by two white brothers who tried to beat out of him what testimony he made before the Athens grand jury probing the Walton lynchings, U. S. Government forces swung into action.

A Government aide said in Washington that arrest of the two brothers, whom Howard identified as James and Tom Vernon might come within a 24-hour period.

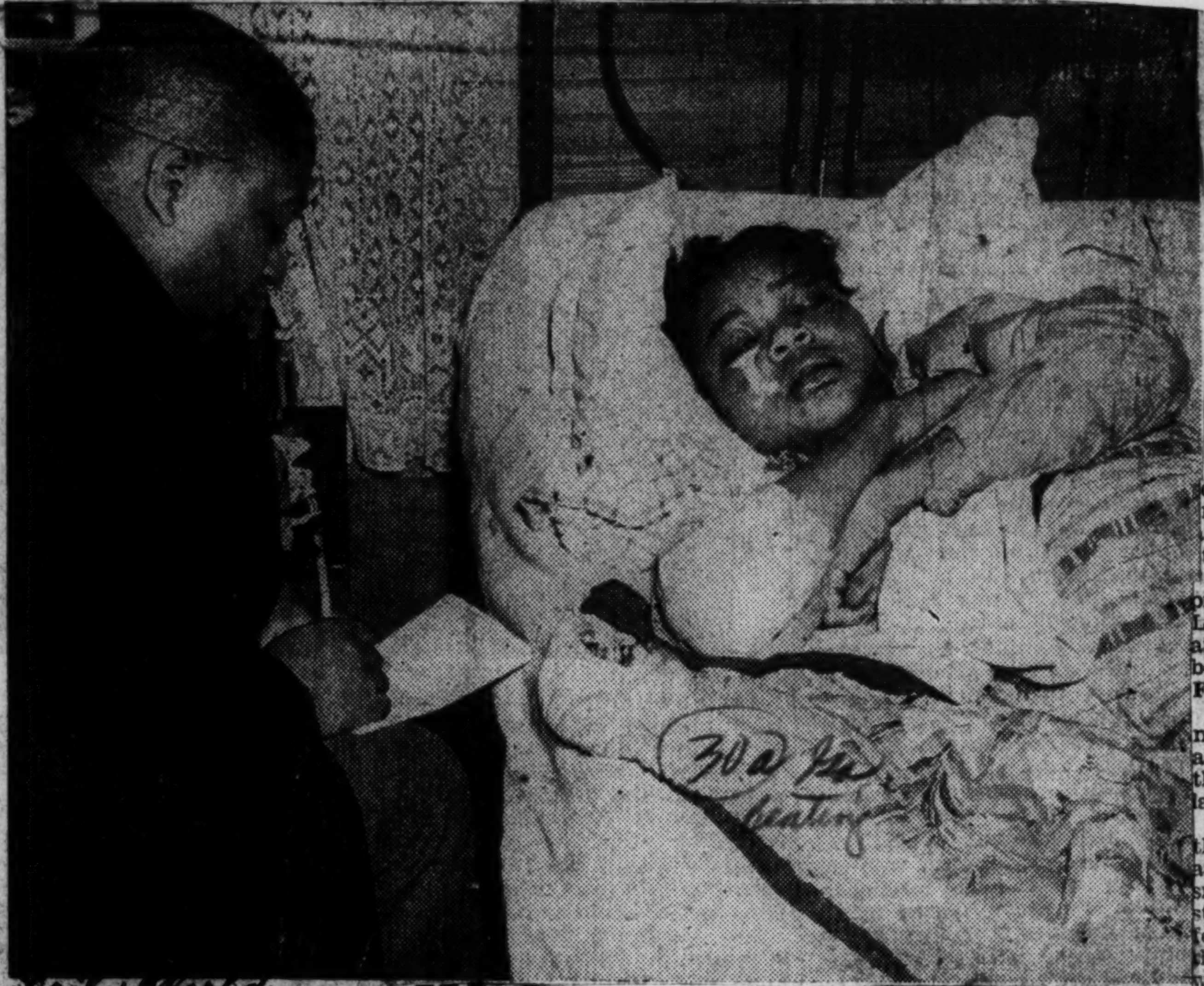
John P. Cowart, district attorney for the Middle Georgia District of Georgia, who was in charge of the grand jury probe at Athens, said in Macon early Friday that the incident had not yet been officially reported to him. He said, however, that should it develop that the witness actually had been assaulted, would follow, as "it is distinctly a violation of the law to tamper with a witness, even after he has testified."

STILL IN SESSION

Cowart also pointed out that the federal grand jury which investigated the Walton atrocity in December without ascertaining the identity of the slayers, is still in session, technically speaking, and can be recalled for consideration of any further evidence in the case which might be recovered.

In contrast to claims by Walton Deputy Sheriff Louis Howard that Lamar Howard said he did not want to prosecute anybody, the mother of the victim had said that they waited at the Walton County hospital for an hour for law enforcement authorities to intervene in the report, and that nobody came after Howard said the matter did not come under his jurisdiction since it occurred inside Monroe.

Meanwhile, the Georgia Citizens Defense Committee continued to map plans for the security of the beaten youth.



30a Ga beating

Daily World

NEW MONROE TERROR VICTIM TELLS STORY — Lamar Howard, 19-year-old ice house worker and one of the Negro witnesses in the Athens federal grand jury hearing into the Walton County lynchings, is shown bein interviewed on January 2 several hours after he was brutally beaten by two white brothers who reportedly tried to "beat out" of him what he had testified at the federal probe. William A. Fowlkes, managing editor of the Atlanta Daily World, makes the interview. Federal authorities were notified and Howard brought to Atlanta for hospitalization and safekeeping. The photo, taken by W. A. Scott, III, World staff photographer, was snapped in the near-Monroe home of Howard's grandmother. Atlanta, Ga. 1-4-47

Walton Jury Sees No Wrong In Beating Charge

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Tues. 2-25-47

By J. RICHARDSON JONES

30a

MONROE, Ga.—(SNS) — Despite the fact he acknowledged he had beaten Golden Lamar Howard, 19, until his fists were bloody, James Verner, 36, was acquitted today by a jury of twelve white men in Walton County Superior Court on charges of assault and battery.

Solicitor M. D. Pollard presented a sterling case ,and made as impassioned a plea to the jury as I have ever heard in a small town court room, yet the question of a Negro's word against that of a white man's was the deciding factor which sent Verner out of the court a free man.

AN OPEN ISSUE

Defense Attorney Orrin Roberts made the racial issue his trump card in his summary to the jury, pitting "this n---'s word against that of these two fine white gentlemen."

OPEN-SHUT CASE

It appeared an open-shut case against James Verner from the opening statement, and as the trial dragged on thru the day and witness after witness mounted the stand, all admitting James Verner had struck and assaulted Lamar, onlookers were convinced there was no verdict other than guilty which could come from the jury room. Yet, after almost two hours' deliberation the 12 men filed into the jury box to render the verdict of not guilty.

Even the defendant himself had said: "I hit him eight or ten times pretty hard; knocked him down twice."

Tom Verner, the defendant's brother, had admitted he stood and watched James beat Lamar, that when James joined him after the assault, his (James') knuckles were bloody from the licks he had imposed upon the youth.

Police Chief Ben Dickerson and Officer Mike Jones testified that when they approached James Verner relative to the matter, the defendant told them: "Yes I beat him and I'll beat hell out of him again if he tells another lie on me."

Yet with this preponderous amount of evidence, the jury did not bring in a conviction.

THREE REASONS WHY

During the testimony it developed that James Verner had proposed three different reasons why he beat the young Negro. He first told Chief Dickerson that he beat him for telling a lie on him. Later, while making bond at the Police Headquarters he said he attacked the boy because the 'n----r" had run him off the road in his car at some previous date. Then the defendant's brother—a defense witness in the afternoon session (although he, too, is charged in the Federal indictment with attacking Lamar, but was not indicted in the Walton County)—injected an allegation that Lamar first struck at James, thereby provoking James' attack on the youth.

However, the defense attorney pressed the second "reason"; that Lamar had run Verner off the road, and that's why the latter beat the boy. Daily World

FIRST WITNESS

Lamar Howard was the first witness called. He had been served with a summons while appearing before the Federal Grand Jury at Athens last week. Atlanta, Ga.

Unflinchingly, he told the jury that James and Tom Verner had approached him at the ice house, snatched his hat from his head, stamped upon it, struck him and forcibly took him into a cow shed at the rear of the ice house where he was beaten. Tues. 2-25-47

Questioned as to why they had attacked him, he straightforwardly asserted that James Verner wanted to know what he had told the Grand Jury at Athens where he had been witness the previous month.

He denied having told the Grand Jury anything, prompting James Verner to strike him and declared he'd kill him if he didn't tell the truth. It was at this point, Lamar declared, that Will Perry, ice house manager, told the Verners not to beat him in the office, but to take him out in the back. This statement Perry vehemently denied as he set the stage for James Verner's defense.

It was out in the back in the cow shed that the assault on the youth was continued and corroborated by James Verner's own statement.

MINIMIZE SERIOUSNESS

The second witness was Dr. Homer Head (white), of the City hospital, who had treated Lamar's wounds the afternoon of the attack.

CONFLICTING TESTIMONY

Will Perry, manager of the ice house where Lamar was employed, offered the first real conflicting testimony, and was first to enter the word "n----r" into the proceedings.

To discredit Lamar's testimony that he had been serving a customer, Perry insisted the day was "cold as a zip," that "no ice sales had been made since noon." He further insisted the boy had not been struck in his office as the youth had testified, and on the basis of this statement, substantiated by a Mr. Carruthers, also employed at the ice house, Defense Attorney Roberts made his impassioned plea of "this n----'s word against these two fine white gentlemen."

GOOD WITNESS

Julius Smith, colored, made a good witness. He stated Lamar's face was so badly battered when he saw him leaving the ice house at 4:45 (following the attack) that he hardly knew him.

The State rested its case at 12:20 p. m. and it was nearly four o'clock when the jury received the charge from Judge Henry West.

SOLICITOR UNBIASED

Solicitor M. D. Pollard, in addressing the jury, declared that over and above the assault and battery charge there was a principal involved, that he wanted to walk the streets of Monroe and in adjoining counties and hold up his head, that "only on basis of race could a verdict of not guilty" be rendered.

This impassioned plea before 200 white spectators and about twenty Negroes went to naught as James Verner walked away from the court

just absolved of blame for havin

beat then hell out that n---r."

30a 1947 Georgia

7490

Georgia's Box Score

30a Ga.

Lynched since 1882 Pittsburgh, Pa. .502
Lynched in last four years 17

ttsburgh Courier Sat. 7-19-4

VICTIMS SINCE V-J DAY: 7

July 20, 1946—Maceo Snipes, Butler, Ga.
July 25, 1946—Mr. and Mrs. George Dorsey, Monroe, Ga.
July 25, 1946—Mr. and Mrs. Roger Malcolm, Monroe, Ga.
July 29, 1946—Harrison Johnson, Eatonton, Ga.
Aug. 3, 1946—John C. Gilbert, Gordon, Ga.
May 20, 1947—Henry Gilbert, Hamilton, Ga.
July 11, 1947—Seven convicts near Brunswick, Ga.

Can a Radio Show Knock Bigotry Out of the Bigot?

30a Ga.

PM New York, N.Y.

Tues. 1-28-47

By SEYMOUR PECK

I don't think there is a man alive, however bigoted, who doesn't believe himself genuinely pious and pure of heart. The man in Georgia who goes to a lynching one day may go comfortably to a place of worship the next. Later he may sit by his radio, listening to a play that urges him to love his neighbor, and say to his children, "Yessir, that's right. You mind what you hear." For his neighbor *is* a good man—didn't he do his share in that lynching?

I thought of this Sunday night as I heard the premiere of *The Greatest Story Ever Told* (WJZ-ABC at 6:30 p.m.). Each week this show will dramatize tales from the Bible, putting them in simple, everyday language to point up their parallel to our own lives and times. But in the first tale, *The Good Samaritan*, there was not enough of the real strength of the Bible. As I listened, I began to ask, "What is there in this play that will shake the complacency of the lyncher in Georgia or of his friends anywhere in America?" Tues. 1-28-47

"Love thy neighbor," the play said, but Negroes are not his neighbors. And, if he can help it, Jews will not be his neighbors either. He will pass on all his hatreds to his children, and nothing will tear him from his hatreds, least of all the platitudes of a watered-down radio show. New York, N.Y.

The Good Samaritan was produced competently, if not impressively. It was rather undramatic, slowed up frequently by overlong background music. The actors did a good job, even though the script made most of the characters shadowy and colorless. This is how the story went: Tues. 1-28-47

Samuel, a man of Jerusalem, is to make the journey to Jericho alone, despite the danger of thieves. His son, Jonathan, tells Samuel that he knows of a man, Ephriam, who is also bound for Jericho. Wouldn't it be safer for them to go together?

Samuel is horrified. Ephriam is a Samaritan, and Samaritans are "dirty, shiftless people, not to be trusted." They are also "traitors." Samuel goes off on the trip by himself. He is robbed and beaten by thieves, and saved finally by Ephriam, the very Samaritan whom he scorned. Wiser from this experience, Samuel tells Ephriam, "It isn't a man's face, or his possessions, or the way he speaks or the place he was born which determines how good a man is. It's what he does toward his fellowmen that should earn him his place in this world." PM

The meaning in *The Good Samaritan* was certainly there for all who wanted to find it. But I am afraid that the millions who did not want to see it, could accept the play without the slightest jolt to their complacency. Perhaps later episodes in *The Greatest Story Ever Told* will be more forceful. If the series wants to better the human spirit, it will not do it by generalities. If naming names will help, then let us, by all means, name names. New York, N.Y.

Combined Forces Of U. S., State Find Nothing

Atlanta Daily World

Pub. Atlanta Ga.

Report Final Withdrawal Of Lynch Probers

Sun. 7-27-47

30a Ga. (1946)

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES

It was one year ago Friday, July 25, that Georgia's worst multiple lynching took place near Monroe, Georgia.

Strangely enough the combined forces of the state of Georgia and the Federal Government have not found enough to even make a case against one of the reported mob of twenty or more white men who ambushed and killed Roger Malcolm and his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Malcolm; George Dorsey and his wife, Mrs. Mae M. Dorsey.

Strangely enough, further, common community talk in Monroe is that the lynchers are well known and that the forces of the state and federal government just didn't choose to act through the mase of circumstances an economic- political influences.

Georgia long ago withdrew its GBI agents actively from the Monroe scene. It has been stated several times that the FBI office was officially removed from Monroe's largest hotel several months ago.

INVESTIGATION SUSPENDED

Friday, major press reports quoted the U. S. Department of Justice Atlanta office as saying that the FBI has suspended investigation of the Walton County slayings. The terse announcement said that agents no longer are assigned to the case.

Saturday, Chief Agent Fultz, of the Georgia FBI office said that he had been misquoted and that he "couldn't make a statement" officially on the withdrawal of agents from the scene. He stated that Washington would have to make the official announcement, since the Monroe investigation by the FBI was by "special" agents. There was nothing new in the FBI probe of the Monroe case, the chief agent indicated. Sun. 7-27-47

NOTHING FROM BREAK

Nothing came out of what was believed to be a break in the Monroe case when Lamar Howard, 19-year-old municipal ice plant worker, was brutally beaten by two brothers in an alleged attempt to force out of him what he had testified before the Athens federal grand jury probing the Oconee River massacre. One of the brothers, Tom Verner, was outright freed, and a mistrial resulted in the case against James Verner. A state case for assault against James Verner resulted in nothing.

And so one of the most wanton outbreaks of mob violence in recent history goes unsolved.

Many are classing the recent slaying of eight prisoners at a Glynn County camp by guards and a reportedly "drunk and reeling" warden as a multiple lynching, despite the "white washing" by a grand jury.

Whether there is any semblance of investigation by State or Federal officers at Monroe, the world knows that NOTHING, absolutely NOTHING, has come forward to involve a single member of the lynch mob that DID kill four Negroes, three of whom just happened to be in a white planter's car with another, who had been accused of stabbing a white man.

Remember the story?

ATTENTIONS INVOLVED?

Roger Malcolm had been released from jail under bond on a charge of stabbing B. H. Hester, Jr., his employer, during an argument which some said involved the attentions of the latter toward Mrs. Dorothy Malcolm. The release had been secured by Loy Harrison, a white planter, on whose farm the Dorseys sharecropped and who had a fine crop about to come in "debt-free".

Harrison took a roundabout route to drive his automobile to his Oconee County farm. When the party reached the Moore's Ford Bridge, a mob of some twenty armed unsmaked white men stoopped the car and took Malcolm and Dorsey from the car. As they were leaving one of the women screamed, and addressing one of the white mobsters by name, asked that he not let them kill her husband. The mob leader yelled: "I guess you better bring those damned women along, too"

30a Ga. (1946)

LINED UP SHOT

Sun. 7-27-47

The Malcolms and the Dorseys were reportedly lined up, their arms and bodies tied up. In military fashion, they were shot down and left dead on the lonely riverside road.

Though scores of FBI agents and GBI operators combed (that was the report) Walton, Oconee and approaching counties, they had not, one year later, found a single member of the mob and brought him to justice.

The national and international furore that resulted from the Walton massacre would fill many a library. Thousands of stories were written from Monroe and the press of the nation and world recounted the harrowing facts of people of a planet just out of a second World War. These facts and cicumstances have brought NOTHING from Monroe and Walton County. Thousands of dollars were offered in rewards yet nothing from Monroe.

7491

7491

Brothers Hold Key To Monroe Case, Charge

Chicago Defender

30a 1946

1-18-47

Agree Pressure On Two Can Crack Lynch 'Mystery'

Sat.

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Walton County (Monroe) lynch case can be cracked now if federal and state law enforcement agencies put pressure on two white men, James and Tom Verner, brothers, and do not handle them with "kid gloves."

That is the consensus of opinion prevalent among Georgians who want to see the perpetrators of the worst crime of 1946 brought to the bar of justice.

Latest developments included action by the state last week against these two mob suspects. The brothers were arrested in Monroe Tuesday on charges of assault and battery, for brutally beating a Negro youth because he refused to disclose to them his testimony before the Athens Federal Grand Jury which probed the crime several weeks ago. Chicago, Ill.

Placed Under Bond

They were each placed under state bond of $500 pending Walton County Grand Jury investigation of the assault upon their 19-year-old victim, Golden Lamar Howard. Solicitor General D. Marshall Pollack said, "These cases will be prosecuted with the utmost vigor."

On the previous Saturday the Verner brothers, in custody for the same vicious first and pistol butt attack, which occurred on Jan. 1. at the Monroe ice plant where the youth was employed, accused him of telling the Federal Jury that they came to the ice house and cleaned some guns on the evening the point-blank shot-gun-pistol fire quadruple lynching occurred. Sat

Howard was keenly disappointed in the treachery of his white employer, Will Perry, who refused to protect him from the brutal attack of the Verner brothers. The ice factory operator gave his approval to the beating the two other white men imposed on the youth by cautioning them to "take him out in the back; don't beat him up in here (meaning the office)."

FBI Enters Case 30a.1m.

The FBI has charged the brothers with intimidation of a federal witness in connection with the cruel beating they inflcted upon Howard. They were released under $10,000 bond each, to await action of the Federal Grand Jury.

The Negro youth required hospital attention here as a result of head and face wounds suffered at the hands of the Verners. His face was badly cut and his eyes were almost swollen shut.

Righteous indignation prevails here that the FBI and government attorneys failed to establish a case against the fiends who lynched Roger and Dorothy Malcolm and George and Mae Dorsey last summer, when the Athens Federal Grand Jury investigated the mob orgy last month.

Some Meddling 1-18-47

The public believes that there was some meddling and that the Justice Department "missed the boat" in the procedure followed involving a number of angles of the lynching. Reports in Atlanta Saturday indicated that ballistic tests are being made of the German Luger and .38 calibre revolver found in a room occupied by James Verner. But even if the tests should develop nothing in a tangible way to link the guns with the Walton County massacre, it should be realized that firearms actually used in the mass murder might have been exchanged or hidden when it was known that an investigation was under way.

The people here hope that James and Tom Verner, 36 and 26 years of age respectively, will not be so fortunate as to "explain" themselves out of implication in the case, if they were participants in the massacre as evidence seems to reveal.

7493

Atlanta Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

Monroe Lynching Anniversary

Wed-7-30-47

Official announcement by the U. S. Justice Department of the withdrawal of the Federal Government from the Monroe Lynching probe was made this week. The announcement will occasion no great surprise. Many conscientious Americans, thoroughly American in spirit and in outlook, have been severely shocked over the fact that lynching participated in on such a grand scale as in the Monroe mass murders, could not be traced or solved by a Government that has the machinery and driving efficiency to run down even a postage stamp robbery and yet is unable to uncover so much as a single name in this case. 30 a) [illegible]

President Truman, addressing the 38th annual convention of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said: "Many of our people still suffer the indignity of insult, the harrowing fear of intimidation, and, I regret to say, the threat of physical injury and mob violence. The conscience of our nation, and the legal machinery which enforces it, have not yet secured to each citizen full freedom from fear----We must make the Federal Government a friendly, vigorous defender of the rights and equalities of all Americans, I mean all Americans."

Unfortunately, the Government's handling of the Monroe lynching probe has been disappointment to Negroes and to many others, anxious to save the name of America from the shame and scourge of lynching. The Government has given the impression of backing down from the boasts and threats of local people in Walton County. Very probably it has done the very best it could do under the circumstances, but in fairness to them it must be said that they have done little. In fact, because of the unsettled policy the Government pursued in the Monroe lynchings(it is not beyond the bounds of logic to say that other communities have since been inspired to stir up mob violence and participate in lynchings.

Wed-7-30-47

The Government's position in withdrawing is not weakened in the least. To the contrary, we believe it was strengthened, at least provided it had withdrawn a month or two following the act, since in every succeeding act, including the Lamar Howard beating, the Government played the second fiddle and that none too well.

The case of Monroe is known around the world today Four citizens of Walton County, paid with their lives in order to atoné for the socalled wrong of one. Monroe cannot be forgotten. — Wed-7-30-47

30a 1947

Georgia (Indictment) (1946)

7494

Two Brothers Indicted As Lynching Outgrowth

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

ATHENS, Ga., Feb. 21—(AP)—Two white brothers were under federal indictment today, charged with assault upon a witness who testified before a Grand Jury investigating the Walton County lynching of four Negroes last Summer. 30a

The Grand Jury returned the indictments yesterday against James B. Verner and Tom G. Verner, of Monroe. Fri. 2-21-47

Golden L. Howard, Negro youth employed at a Monroe, Ga., ice house, complained to FBI agents that the two men beat him Jan. 1 when he declined to reveal his testimony before the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury earlier had failed to report any indictments in connection with the lynch slaying of two Negro men and their wives on a lonely Walton County road.

The News

30a 1947

Georgia (Walton County--Results)

7495

End of An Investigation

Record

Columbia, S. C.

Tues. 7/29/47

30a

(Results)

Columbia Record

The United States Department of Justice announces that the F. B. I. has at last suspended its investigation of the Walton county, Georgia, lynching.

Something more than a year ago the investigation was begun when a white man's automobile was halted near a bridge on a country road and the four Negroes—two men and two women, three of them accused of no crime—were taken from it to be riddled with bullets and killed.

Thousands of persons were interviewed and the F. B. I. kept on working when the Georgia bureau of investigation quit. But to no result.

Some of the persons with whom the F. B. I. talked, of course, knew things that would have helped the officers in their inquiry. But they did not reveal them. They were not talking.

For the Walton county lynching was a real lynching. There were only about 20 men in the mob, but the whole community, or at least everybody who knew anything about it preferred to forget it and do nothing. They were willing to acquiesce in it and condone it. And in such circumstances even the F. B. I. was helpless.

Tues. 7/29/47

And should the federal anti-lynching law be passed the investigating officers will be helpless in such cases. There is even the possibility that the resentment created by the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law will increase the number of such cases, make the lynchers community heroes instead of the cowards and murderers they are and should be considered.

Five Deputies Sheriff On Trial In U.S. Court In Death Of Negro

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Tues. 2-25-47

SHREVEPORT, La., Feb. 25—(AP)—Defense attorneys were scheduled to cross examine a Negro witness in the Federal Court trial here of five Minden, La., white men charge with civil liberty law violations in connection with the lynching of another Negro.

The Negro, Albert Harris, Jr., testified yesterday that he and John C. Jones, Negro, were seized by a group of white men as they were released from the parish jail at Minden. 30a La.

Harris said they were taken into a woods and beaten for half an hour. He testified that Jones died about five minute slater.

The government charges that the five white men conspired to deprive the Negroes of such civil rights as immunity from illegal assault, due process of law, equal protection and trial under regular legal procedure.

On trial are Deputies Sheriff Oscar H. Haynes, Jr., and Charles M. Edwards, Samuel C. Madry, Willie Drayton Perkins and Harry Edward Perry.

Harris' tertimony followed that of Samuel C. Madry, Jr., son of one of the defendants, who said that his father had told him that Harris had confessed to a conspiracy to rape the younger Madry's wife while Jones kept watch. The News

Harris said he and Jones were arrested separately on suspicion of having attempted to enter the premises of Madry, Jr. The Negro said he and Jones were released from jail and picked up by a group of men who beat them in an attempt to make them confess.

The witness testified that he was beaten still another time before the fatal flogging of Jones in the woods. Birmingham, Ala.

Quiet spectators filled the seats in the courtroom and an overflow crowd, including several Negroes, stood in the hall. Tues. 2-25-47

Suspects in Minden Lynching Lose Plea

30a La. (Trial)

The Afro-American - Baltimore, Md.

Judge Sets Trial for Feb. 24; Denies Plea of Ban Against Women on Jury

Sat. 2-1-47

SHREVEPORT, La. — Defense motions to quash indictments against five white men of Webster parish, in connection with the lynching of John C. Jones, a war veteran of Cotton Valley, last August, were denied here Jan. 22 by Federal Judge Gaston L. Porterie in the U.S. District Court.

He denied 14 separate defense motions, arguments being based largely on whether or not women had been barred from grand jury service in this district. Judge Porterie set Feb. 24 as the tentative trial date.

Harry V. Booth, attorney for the five defendants, argued that the indictments should be dismissed on the ground that women were intentionally and purposely excluded from the grand jury which returned the indictments.

Court Staff Testify

Several court officials were called to testify as to whether any women had ever served on Federal grand juries. Philip Mecom, court clerk, testified that he had no knowledge of women grand jurors but emphasized that none had been excluded.

The defendants' attorney argued further that a provision in the allows women to serve on juries if they notify the commissioners in writing of their intention or wish to serve, applies only to petit juries.

Judge's Ruling

Judge Porterie ruled that no women had been barred, that only nine in the entire district had indicated their intention to serve, and that while the State Constitution virtually exempted women from jury service, it left the option for them to serve if they desired.

He also ruled that the United States attorney had not prevented the witnesses from being interviewed by, or had kept them hidden from, the defense counsel.

Aided Mob

The defendants are Oscar H. Haynes Jr., and Charles Edwards, Webster parish deputy sheriffs; Samuel C. Maddry Sr., Willie D. Perkins and Harry E. Perry.

They were charged with and indicted for allegedly aiding in turning over Jones and his cousin, 17-year-old Albert "Sonny Man" Harris, to a mob of 12 men after the men were held for tresspasing on the property of Samuel C. Maddry Jr.

Jones was lynched, and his

La. Sheriff Defendant

30a

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 8-23-47

Charged With Aiding Mob to Lynch Veteran

SURETY CO. CITED

Minden (La.) Orgy Stirred the Nation

SHREVEPORT, La.—Oscar H. Haynes Sr., sheriff of Webster Parish and his surety company, were made defendants in a $50,000 damage suit filed here Aug. 14, in the U.S. District Court by Mrs. Carrie L. Jones, widow of Cpl. John C. Jones of Cotton Valley, who was lynched by a mob near Minden, Aug. 8, 1946.

The petition was filed by A. P. Tureaud attorney of New Orleans for Mrs. Jones in behalf of herself and her 5-year-old daughter, Myrtis Ann.

Negligence Charged

Mrs. Jones, now a resident of Los Angeles, charged:

"That Mr. Haynes was sheriff of Webster Parish on or about Aug. 7, 1946, when her husband, in legal custody was incarcerated in the Minden jail.

"That it was his duty as sheriff to provide for the safe-keeping and protection of prisoners or persons accused of crime placed in his custody.

"That on or about the night of Aug. 7, 1946, an irresponsible mob of white men appeared at the jail and demanded that Jones be turned over to them.

"It was apparent that the mob intended to inflict serious injury on Jones, and the defendant or his deputies aided and abetted the mob by surrendering Jones without the slightest resistance.

"The mob placed Jones in a

Afro-American, Baltimore, Md.

waiting automobile and lynched him at Dorcheat Bayou,a nearby wooded section, on the night of Aug. 7 or morning of Aug. 8.

"That the sheriff failed in his duty to safely keep and protect Jones and by reason of his failure he became liable to her and her minor daughter for the death of their husband and father.

30a

Act Stirred Nation

The lynching of Jones caused nation-wide protest last year after NAACP investigators revealed how he and his 17-year-old cousin, Albert "Sonny Man" Harris, had been seized at the Minden jail by a dozen or more unmasked white men in automobiles. La.

Jones and Harris were suspected of spying on a white woman. The mob flogged Harris unmercifully and left him for dead, and Jones's mutilated body was found the next day.

However, Harris who had feigned death, fled from the town and after a cross-country chase, finally made his way to the NAACP office in New York.

Mob Members Identified

NAACP investigators went to the scene of the lynching, interviewed officials of the parish and colored witnesses, and learned the names of those who lynched Jones.

These names were turned over to the Department of Justice and the arrest of six white men, including deputy sheriffs and a police chief, followed. Sat. 8-23-47

Arrested in connection with the lynching were Benjamin Gantt, Minden police chief; Deputy Sheriff Oscar H. Haynes Jr., son of the sheriff; Deputy Sheriff Charles M. Edwards; Samuel C. Maddry Sr., William D. "Slim" Perkins and Henry E. Perry.

With the exception of Gantt, all were indicted and tried in U.S. District Court here on Feb. 24, 1947. At the close of a trial lasting almost a week, the defendants were acquitted, although identified by Harris.

Feeling against Mrs. Jones caused her to leave her home in Cotten Valley and move to Shreveport, thence to California.

SHERIFF SUED IN LYNCHING

N.Y. Times New York, N.Y.

Widow of Negro Seized by Mob and Slain Asks $50,000

Sat. 8-16-47

MINDEN, La., Aug. 15 (AP)—The widow of a lynched Negro sued Sheriff Oscar H. Haynes for $50,000 today, charging he failed to protect her husband from a mob on Aug. 8, 1946. 30a La. (Trial)

The suit was filed in Webster Parish Court here by Carrie Lee Jones, widow of John C. Jones.

Jones' beaten, bullet-riddled body was found along Dorchet Bayou between Minden and Cotton Valley after he and another Negro, Albert Harris, 17 years old, had been taken from the Minden jail by a group of white men.

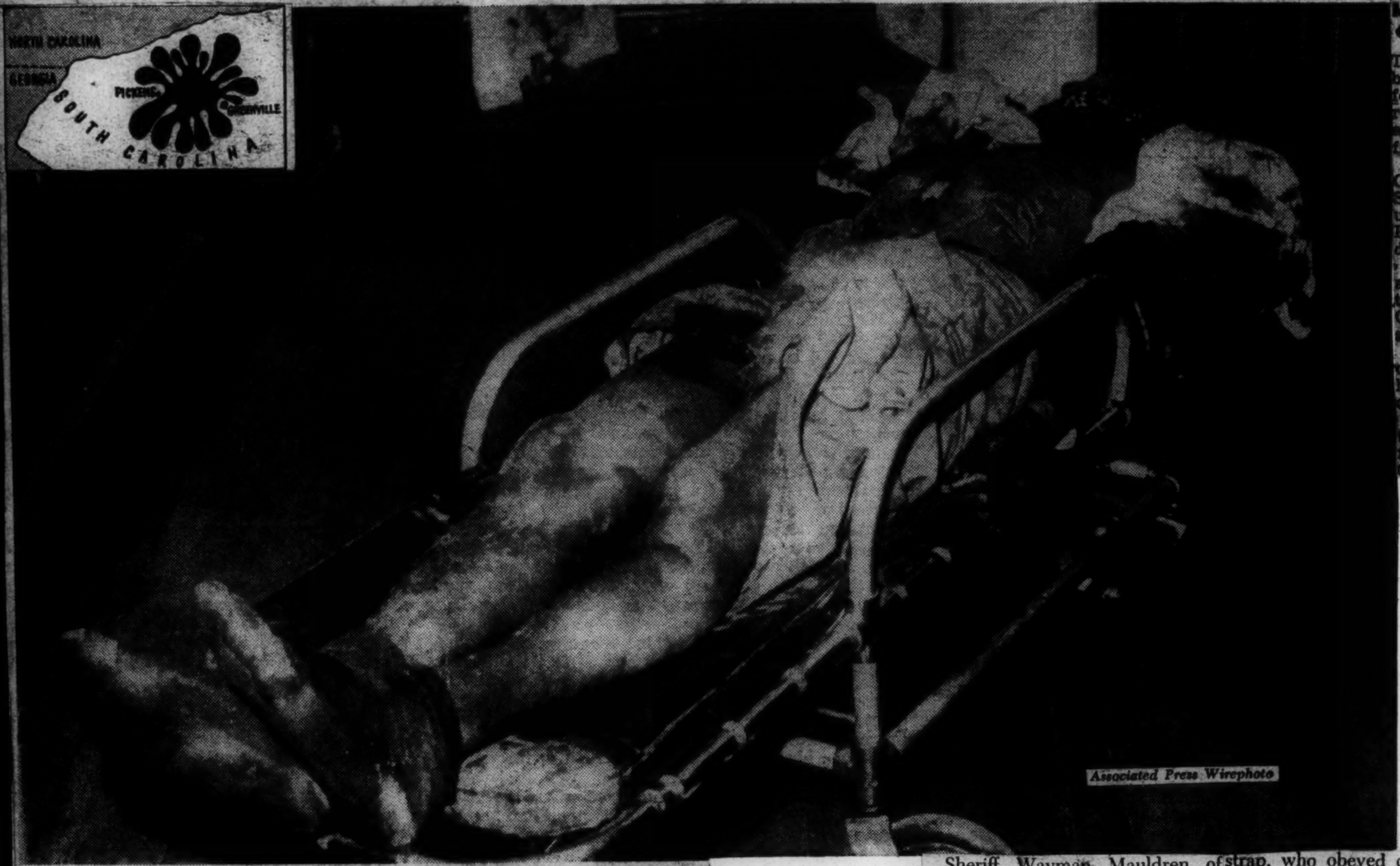
Harris, also beaten and left for dead, recovered and testified in a Federal court trial of six Webster Parish men who were charged with depriving the Negroes of their civil rights by releasing them to the mob. A jury acquitted all six. Sat. 8-16-47

Jones and Harris had been held for investigation in connection with an alleged attempt to break into a white woman's home.

~~Jones' widow now lives in Los~~ Angeles.

30a 1947 South Carolina (1947)

Fascism in the U.S.A., 1947



Associated Press Wirephoto

Willie Earle lies on a slab in the morgue at Greenville, S. C., mute evidence against 35 white men who put themselves above the law and the courts of their State. Accused of stabbing a Greenville cab driver, Earle was snatched from the Pickens County Jail by an unmasked lynch mob who administered their brand of un-American justice with knives and shotgun fire.

Story on Page 4

South Carolina Negro First Lynch Victim of 1947

30a S.C.

South Carolina's record of six years without a lynching was erased in blood early Monday.

Willie Earle, 24, a Negro accused of stabbing a Greenville taxi driver in a holdup Saturday night, was snatched from the two-story red brick jail at nearby Pickens by a band of about 35 unmasked men in seven automobiles.

An hour later, the body was found near the line dividing Pickens and Greenville counties on the grounds of a rural slaughter-house. Earle had been stabbed three times, his head blasted by shotguns fired at close range. PM

The wounded cab driver, T. W. Brown, died during the afternoon at Greenville hospital. He was found unconscious in his cab and never revived sufficiently to look at the accused man. 2-18-47

Sheriff Wayman Mauldren of Pickens County said he sought out Earle because of a previous bad record and locked him up after a blood-stained shirt and a blood-stained knife were found in his house. Maulden said also that Earle's heelprint matched one found in the earth near Brown's cab.

Maulden said there was no lynch talk, no sign of unrest in Pickens on Sunday night, so he took no extra precautions. No one in town, it appears, noticed the lynchers' cars until they were in the jailyard and two men with shotguns were in the jail office telling the night turnkey, Ed Gilstrap, 62, to march upstairs to the cell block.

"They had shotguns and I danced to their music," said Gilstrap, who obeyed orders, picking up the telephone to call Mauldin as the lynchers dragged the quaking Negro out. Gilstrap said some of the lynchers, all strangers to him, wore peaked caps of the type used by cab drivers. New York,

Gilstrap's daughter, looking from a second-floor window, counted the cars and estimated the number of men. Sheriff Mauldin said some of the cars were Greenville taxicabs.

At Greenville, Sheriff R. H. Beardon declared that he and Mauldin were co-operating fully in the inquiry. No suspects had been picked up last night. N.Y. 2-18-47

"We stand for law enforcement and we don't intend to let anybody get away with this sort of thing," said Beardon. "I am a great believer in the South and Southern tradition but I feel that the law ought to be allowed to take care of punishment of crimes." PM

Records at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, show this to be the first lynching of 1947. The last verified lynching was on Aug. 8, 1946, when a Negro youth, accused of house-breaking, was whipped to death at Minden, La. Times.

South Carolina's last previous lynching was on Feb. 15, 1941. However, South Carolina's lynching record does not include the case of Isaac Woodward, Negro war veteran, whose eyes were gouged out by policemen at Batesburg, S. C.. In this case, a policeman was tried, acquitted by an all-white jury.

Carolina Mob Slays Prisoner

Constitution 30a

Atlanta, Ga. S.C

PICKENS, S. C., Feb. 17—(AP)—The knifed and shot-punctured body of a 25-year-old Negro was found Monday at dawn on a frosty roadside less than two hours after an armed mob had marched him from a cell in Pickens County jail.

The victim, Willie Earle, of Greenville, had been arrested Sunday in connection with the Saturday night stabbing of T. W. Brown, 50-year-old Greenville taxi driver, who died Monday. 2-18-47

Ed Gilstrap, jailor, said about 25 armed and masked men entered the jail and demanded the Negro. Gilstrap surrendered the prisoner and the mob left in automobiles. Constitution

Gilstrap, who said he didn't recognize any of the men, looked at his watch as the last automobile disappeared. It was 5:05 a. m.

At 6:45 a. m., a passerby found the Negro's body several miles from Pickens, inside Greenville County. 2-18-47. Times.

7476

SHOT-GUN MOB LYNCHES NEGRO IN SOUTH CAROLINA

PICKENS, S.C., Feb. 17.—This town today had the shameful distinction of being the scene of the first lynching in 1947. The victim was Willie Earle, 35, a Negro. 30a S.C.

Earle was removed this morning from the county jail, where he'd been held on a charge of robbing and wounding a Greenville S.C. cab driver last Saturday, by a mob of 35 white men.

An hour after, the lynch mob dumped the knife-ripped, shot-riddled body of their victim near a rural slaughterhouse. Jailer Ed Gilstrap had handed Earle over to the mob, led by two men with shotguns, shortly before 5 a.m. Daily Worker 2-18-47

About 6 a.m., a phone call advised a Greenville mortuary where the lynch victim's body could be found. Coroner J. T. Turner of Greenville found Earle's still-warm body, the head bearing gaping shotgun wounds on both sides and the torso "mutilated by one or more knives." New York, N.Y. 2-18-47

Jailer Gilstrap said that none of the lynch mob wore masks and all were silent except one of the two leaders who snapped out "We've come to get that n—r." But he said he had not recognized any of the mob. Tue. 2-18-47

The lynchers' victim had lived with his aged mother, a cook at a Pickens cafe, in a one-room, unpainted shack at Liberty, seven miles from Pickens. Earle had been a housepainter in Liberty, and had worked in Greenville for two years. Daily Worker

According to UP, Governor J. Strum Thurmond ordered "all state resources" used to track down the lynch mob.

South Carolina Mob Lynches Negro Held In Fatal Stabbing of Cabdriver

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press Wirephoto.

CORONER J. O. TURNER SHOWS WHERE LYNCHED MAN'S BODY WAS FOUND

30a S.C.

Victim Knifed, Shot to Death

2-18-47-Tue.

Pickens, S. C., Feb. 17 (AP)—The knife-and-shot-punctured body of a 25-year-old Negro was found at dawn today sprawled on a roadside less than 2 hours after an armed mob had marched him from a cell in Pickens County Jail. Courier-Journal

The victim Willie Earle, Greenville, had been arrested yesterday in connection with the Saturday night stabbing of T. W. Brown, 50-year-old Greenville taxi driver, who died today.

Ed Gilstrap, 62-year-old jailer who lives with his family in the lower floor of the jail building, said about 25 armed but unmasked men demanded the Negro. Gilstrap and two of the men carrying shotguns climbed the stair to the jail while the other mobsters stood guard among their seven automobiles in the jailyard below. The aging turnkey unlocked the cell door and surrendered the slight prisoner. Minutes later the motor caravan bearing the two dozen armed white men and the Negro rolled away. Louisville, Ky.

Identified by Money.

Gilstrap, who said he didn't recognize any of the men, looked at his watch as the last automobile disappeared. It was five minutes after five. 2-18-47

At 6:45 o'clock, a passer-by found the Negro's body several miles from Pickens, inside Greenville County. Tues.

Pickens County Sheriff Waymon H. Mauldin identified the body by two dirty one-dollar bills found in the clothing. That's the money Earl had had in jail, the sheriff said.

At Columbia, Governor Strom Thurmond directed the State Constabulary to extend every help possible to Sheriffs R. Homer Breарden of Greenville County and Sheriff Mauldin of Pickens County in hunting down the mob members.

"I shall exert every resource at my command to apprehend all persons who may be involved in such a flagrant violation of the law," said Thurmond.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation moved into the search for the mob members during the day. F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover in Washington ordered the Charlotte office of the F.B.I. to participate inthe investigation.

Lynching Trial Called Step Forward, Even Though 28 Were Acquitted

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky. Fri. 5-23-47

30a) S.C.

Most Persons Seem Satisfied

Greenville, S. C., May 22 (AP)—Grim satisfaction prevailed in near-by textile communities today over mass acquittal of 28 white men accused of lynching a South Carolina Negro—but some Greenville leaders said the trial, itself, was "progress."

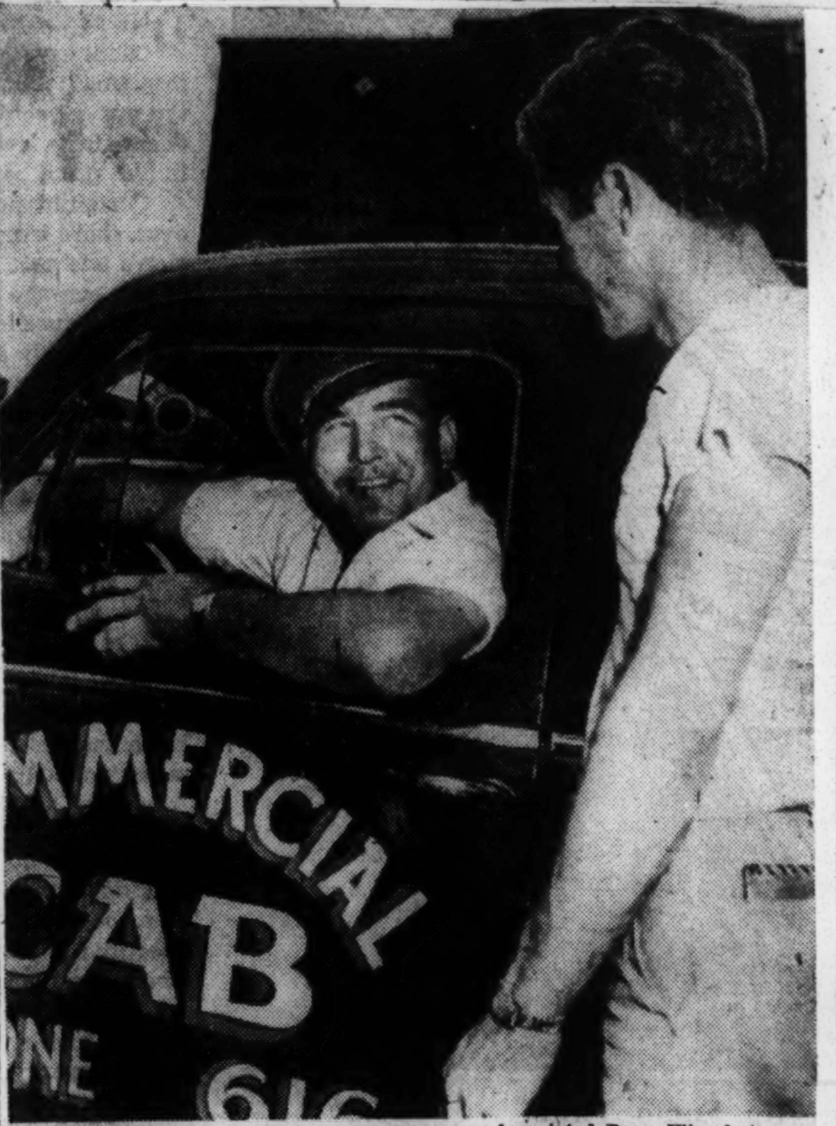
One public official said: "This was the first time that South Carolina has brought mass-murder charges against alleged lynchers. The jury acquitted them. If there should be another case, perhaps we may get a mistrial with a hung jury. Eventually, the South may return convictions."

John Bramlett, prominent attorney, said: "The fact that a local grand jury returned 31 indictments, and that the State was enabled to try this case, represents a degree of progress."

One well-known attorney, whose firm refused to represent the defendants, said most people appeared to fell satisfaction with the verdict. But, he added, "There are a number of us who feel profound shame." Fri. 5-23-47

Along the textile-belt line, in Judson, Woodside, Riverside, and American Spinning Mill communities, the reaction was: "So what? So they turned them loose. It was right, by law and justice."

Greenville, generally, displayed indifference. While students at Wofford College in near-by Spartanburg paraded in protest of the acquittals, reaction in Greenville largely was relief that the nation's greatest lynch trial was over.


Associated Press Wirephoto.

FREE AGAIN . . . Woodroe W. Clardy, left, stops to talk with Duran Keenan after going back to driving a cab yesterday in Greenville, S. C., following their acquittal on charges of lynching Willie Earle.

Most Southern Papers Condemn Lynching Verdict

By the Associated Press.

A number of Southern newspapers yesterday condemned editorially the verdict in the Greenville lynching trial.

"The whole South, the whole nation, must hang its head in shame over the verdict," commented The Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal termed the verdict "a rebuke to the decency of that vast majority in the South who believe in the maintenance of law and order" and called it "a sad day for justice and the South." Fri. 5-23-47

"As much as most Southerners disapprove of federal intervention," said The Birmingham Age-Herald, "the verdict will increase the feeling, even in the South, that some other method than those now available must be found when Negroes are murdered by white mobs, if we are to assure the punishment of the guilty."

Called Just In Greenville.

Numerous Southern newspapers found it important that alleged lynchers were, for the first time in the South, arrested and brought to trial. The Nashville Tennessean predicted that "fewer would-be mobsters, we believe, will be inclined henceforth to take the risks."

"This verdict for anarchy," said The Atlanta Journal, "is a challenge to all that is fair and decent and truly patriotic in the mind and heart of the South."

The Greenville Piedmont, owned by former U. S. Senator Roger C. Peace, said the verdict was "just, according to the law and evidence."

Lynching, An Incorporation

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

(From The Lighthouse Informer)

Being a Negro, and a Negro in States like South Carolina, has its advantage at times. And one of the times was when a jury of white men set Scot free other white men tried for the Willie Earle lynching in Greenville county last Wednesday. 30a) S.C. (Tr.-Results) Wed. 6-4-47

The utter shock and hard-to-believe reality with which other white men and other parts of the world receive the verdict, as poignant and suggestive of savagery as the lynching itself, was no more than what the Negro, in States like South Carolina, expected and predicted. Being thus prepared, calloused by years of similar mis-carriages of justice, he gritted his teeth a little, then threw his face for another poke on the nose.

The trial itself, however, was a contribution—not the "progress" some people are pointing to in the arrest, prosecution and official moves made by "law and order." Rather, the trial through its verdict reveals vividly that the real collusion with lynchers—vicious and debase murderers—is from among the based and Negro-hating element among white men. Those who loudly shout "we are making progress" because of the arrest and prosecution of the suspects are the same who a few months ago were vigorously opposing federal legislation against lynching, shouting just as loudly, "lynching is practically extinct." Significant is it that two days after the "jury reprieve," 400 miles away another mob attempted duplication of Earle's lynching. And this while the shouting of "making progress" was at its pitch. Wed. 6-4-47

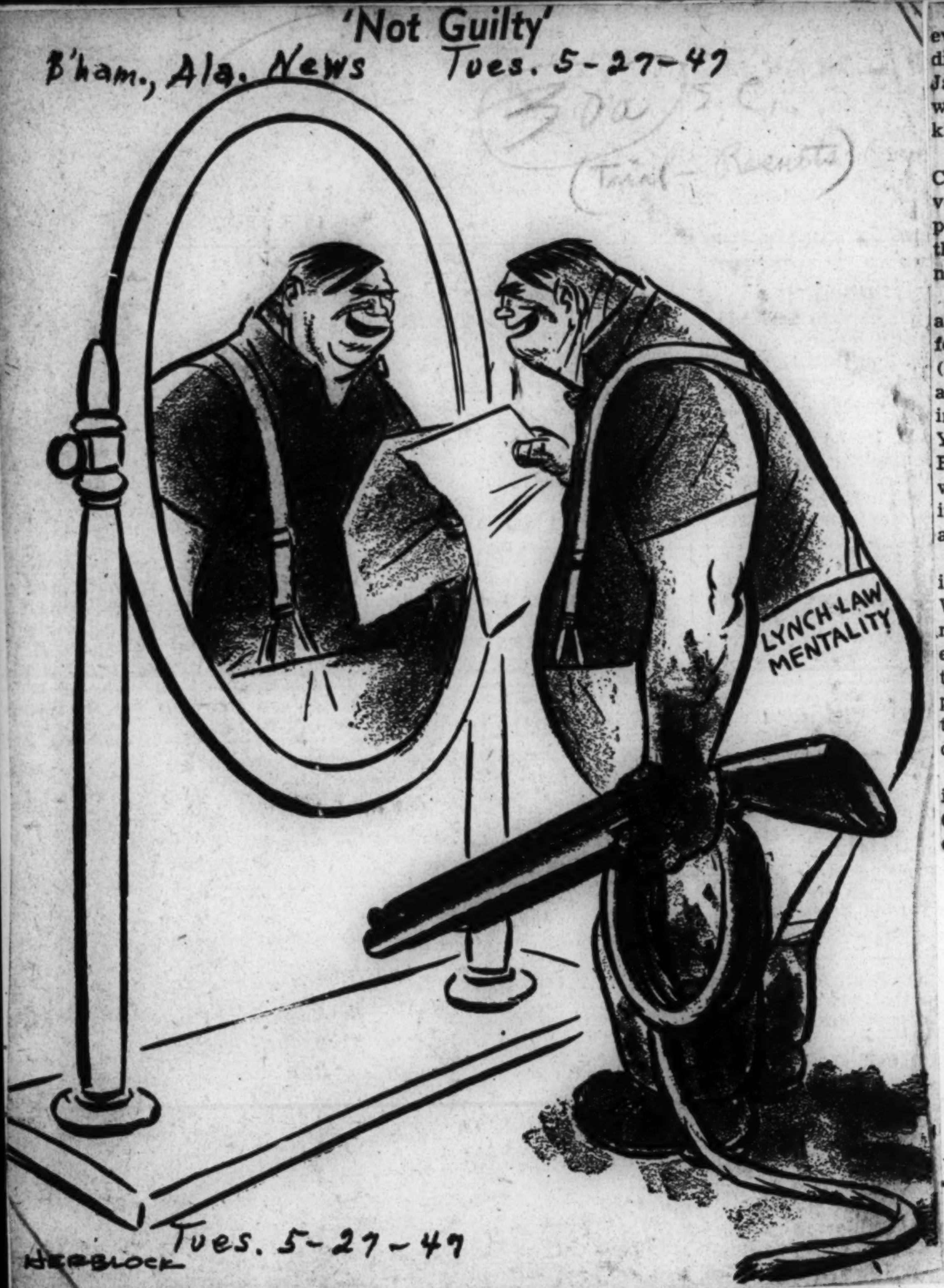
In the Greenville case there was perfect functioning of enforcement officers, of the prosecution and the presiding judge. But all the fine work these had done was swept aside quickly by a jury, which attuned its ears to the suggestive words bellowed before them by Thomas Wofford, a race-spewing specimen of a lawyer who, lacking in evidence and fact for defense, appealed to the emotions on racial and sectional feeling.

And there is a second point. Namely, that state law ought to be revised so as to make possible the legal use of statements given by members of bands which lynch and kill. The Greenville case's legal strength hinged on the statements of the defendants, none of which—and easily understandable— involved their authors. But the law restricts these to their indictment of the authors. The law, which certainly took a savage beating in the case, ought to be able to recognize the improbability of "eye-witnesses" to lynchings and, where possible, confine itself to participants who readily admit partial guilt.

And finally, courts which undertake to try cases involving the welfare of both races in the community, ought to have juries on which both races of the community are represented. White juries easily reflect the "mind" of whites when a Negro is involved, but these seldom reflect the mind of Negroes in the community.

Lynchers would be less inclined to lynch were they assured beforehand that their penalty would be partially fixed by the people they wronged. Wed. 6-4-47

Lynching, the sport of illiterates, and semi-illiterates as was the case at Greenville, is a collusive affair. It is an incorporation, doing business of the strength of the support it gets from tributaries. A jury of all white men is its heart, but it has other sources of strength.



'Not Guilty'

B'ham., Ala. News Tues. 5-27-47

30a S.C.

(Trial - Results)

Tues. 5-27-47

Would Lynch South Carolina

News & Courier Charleston, S.C.

That a "Democrat", new style, we are referring to Mr. Clark, attorney general of the United States, attacks trial by jury was to be expected. That a modern "Democrat" (Mr. Clark is of the species) is "outraged" by a verdict of a jury in a state and expects to interfere, if he can find a pretext, to meddle in the state rights, is no more than assertion of the doctrines, by one of its spokesmen of the party that profits by the name "Democrat".

It is not in the least surprising that the New Deal attorney general of the United States, legal adviser of the president and member of his "official family", seems to think that persons whose lives have been in jeopardy once before a jury in a state court should be placed in jeopardy a second time in some other way or before some other court.

30 a) S.C. (Trial - Results)

Were a high authority in federal government "Democratic" authority, to be so "shocked" at the verdict of a jury in South Carolina that he would like to annul it, to blot out the power of the state to try accused persons, in short to discover a way to lynch the law, the constitution, the rights of a state, to lynch the state itself, it would seem to The News and Courier not out of harmony with the trend of "Democratic" government at this time. Tues. 5-27-47

We look on Attorney General Clark as every inch a "Democrat" loyal to a party of disloyalty to the Democracy of Jefferson, Jackson, Cleveland and Wilson. Mr. Clark we take to be a most faithful man, of his kind.

Our sense of disappointment that in South Carolina is no congressman or other official voice publicly objecting to the expressions, purposes of Mr. Clark to attack the rights of the state and to destroy them if he can is not worth mentioning.

Why should a South Carolinian resent any threat of vengeance uttered by the federal government, the attorney general (head of the "department of justice"!) against a South Carolina jury, against trial by jury in a state court? We have now no Robert Y. Hayne to defend South Carolina, no Robert Barnwell Rhett, no Wade Hampton; we have not a B. R. Tillman to speak for it in words that would make the "Democratic" administration ashamed if not afraid.

The official South Carolinian must "stand in" with the "Democratic" administration in Washington or subsidies gifts, jobs, allotments, for constituents, which elect and re-elect, may be jeoparded. It were better that the lives of men acquitted of murder be placed in jeopardy again, or so they may think, than that Mother Government (the dear old lady is a "Democrat") be offended.

The Office-holding Industry must not be impaired whether or not Attorney General Clark have his wish to stamp on the state courts. Tues. 5-27-47

New Deal in South Carolina

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier Sat. 3-1-47

Marking the first lynching of 1947, a Pickens County (South Carolina) mob last week spirited 25-year-old Willie Earle of Greenville, S. C., from jail before the eyes of the "helpless" jailer, and shot him to death for allegedly stabbing a white taxicab driver who later died.

Under normal circumstances this would have been the end of the matter with no one able to recognize any of the lynchers and no one giving out any information to the police.

30a S.C.

It is heartening to note that this is exactly what did not happen.

Earle was lynched on Feb. 17, and by Feb. 20 the sheriff, using good detective work, had obtained confessions from eleven taxicab drivers that they had taken part in the lynching. Later sixteen others were arrested.

This is good detective work anywhere but is remarkable in South Carolina, where the arrest of a lyncher is virtually unknown.

Of course arrests are not convictions, and it remains to be seen whether any of these people will be punished for their crime. Sat. 3-1-47

Nevertheless, the fact remains that a Southern sheriff has acted with dispatch against a lynch mob and brought them to book.

That would seem to indicate a new departure in South arolina.

The South Regrets It

From The McComb (Miss.) Enterprise Journal

30a S.C.

The follownig editorial from the typewriter of Edgar Harris and apearing in *The West Point Times Leader* deals with a subject that merits the interest of our people everywhere. Under the caption of "The First Lynching" Mr. Harris says: Southern Weekly Dallas, Tex.

"The first lynching of the new year is reported from South Carolina, and was not the result of rape or murder. 3-22-47

"This lynching will probably increase pressure by racial groups for enactment of anti-lynching legislation by this Congress, and may hasten action on such legislation. That, however, is only one reason why most Southerners, including most South Carolinians, we believe, regretted to read the news story revealing the crime.

"In justice to South Carolina, however, it should be noted that this was the first lynching reported in that State in six years, and is being generally condemned by the best people in the community where it occurred."

The fact is that Southern people do not want an anti-lynching law and they seek to eliminate the danger of such a law by eliminating the cause of its promulgation. What Edgar Harris says on the subject is the sentiment of thousands of people in Dixie today.

30a 1947

South Carolina (1947)

7496

25-Man Mob Takes Prisoner From Jail

Afro-American Baltimore, Md. 2-22-47-Sat.

30a S.C.

Suspect, 25, Shot and Stabbed, Held in Wounding of Taxi Driver

PICKENS, S.C.—The first lynching of the year occurred here early on the morning of Feb. 17, when a 25-man mob took Willie Earle, 25, from his cell in the Pickens County jail and riddled his body with shots after stabbing him to death.

Earle, who was being held in connection with the stabbing of a taxicab driver, was turned over to the mob by J. Ed Gilstrap, the jailor, who said that he was forced to unlock the cell. 2-22-47

No Protection Given Sat.

According to Gilstrap, who is 60 and was left in sole charge of the prisoner, despite the resulting tension, the 25-odd men, armed with shotguns and most of them wearing caps, came first to the front door and then to the back.

"One of them," he said, "said they wanted the colored man and wouldn't harm anybody else."

After he unlocked the door, he added, they took Earle out and drove off in several cars, around 5 o'clock. Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Body Stabbed Often

Earle's body, which was found in nearby Greenville County around 6:45 a.m., bore many stab wounds. The head itself had been shot through with a shotgun, according to Coroner J. O. Turner.

Meanwhile, T. W. Brown, the man whose stabbing brought about the lynch victim's arrest, is in a critical condition in the hospital.

Brown had told officers that he was stabbed and then robbed by a colored fare he had picked up in Greenville, Saturday night.

PRISONER LYNCHED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

30a Times 2-18-47

Taken From Jail by 25 Armed Men, He Is Stabbed and Shot and Body Left by Roadside

New York, N.Y.

PICKENS, S. C., Feb. 17 (AP)—The body of a 25-year-old Negro, punctured with knife and shot wounds, was found today at dawn sprawled on a frosty roadside less than two hours after an armed mob marched him from a cell in Pickens County jail. Times

The victim, Willie Earle of Greenville, had been arrested Sunday in connection with the stabbing Saturday night of T. W. Brown, 50 years old, a Greenville taxi driver, who died today.

Ed Gilstrap, 62, jailor, who lives with his family in the lower floor of the jail building, said about twenty-five men bearing arms but unmasked came in the darkness and demanded the Negro.

With two of the men carrying shotguns Mr. Gilstrap climbed the stair to the jail while the other mobsters stood guard among their seven automobiles in the jailyard below. The turnkey unlocked the cell door and surrendered the prisoner. He said he did not recognize any of the men but he did after five o'clock as the last automobile disappeared. 2-18-47

At 6:45 o'clock, a passerby found the Negro's body several miles from Pickens, inside Greenville County. Coroner J. O. Turner said the body was still warm when he arrived. New York, N.Y. Times

The Pickens County sheriff, Waymon H. Mauldin, identified the body by two dirty one-dollar bills found in the clothing. That's the money Earle had had in jail, the sheriff said.

At Columbia, Governor Strom Thurmond directed the State constabulary to extend every help possible to Sheriff R. Homer Bearden of Greenville County and Sheriff Mauldin in hunting down the mob members.

"I do not favor lynching and I shall exert every resource at my command to apprehend all persons who may be involved in such a flagrant violation of the law," said Mr. Thurmond.

'HE WAS A GOOD BOY'

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Mob Victim's Mother Sobs Out Tale of Woe

3-1-47 Sat. 30a S.C.

By B. M. PHILLIPS

GREENVILLE, S.C.—"I can't believe my boy is gone . . He never did anybody any harm. He was a good boy." These were the words of 40-year-old Mrs. Tessie Earle, mother of Willie Earle, lynch victim, as she sat in the Franks funeral home here late Wednesday, where morticians were preparing his mutilated body for burial.

The youthful looking mother of seven, had no tears for the occasion. She was sad but resolute.

When the undertakers had finished their gruesome task and finally wheeled the white-sheeted body out for inspection, I too found it hard to believe that a South Carolina mob, and not a gang of Nazis, had done this atrocious thing. Afro-American

Mutilation Apparent

Where there must have once been a right eye, there was only a socket. In fact, the entire right half of the face had been smashed in, and even the adroitness of the undertaker could not keep this mutilation from showing. 3-1-47

Where once there was skin and bones on the left side of the face, there was only the undertaker's plaster trying to form a face. Sat.

The vicious lynchers had not only riddled the face with bullets, but had used sharp knives or other instruments to cut out the brains and to gouge the entire lower left half of the face away, leaving only the bones. 3-1-47

And the undertaker's plaster could do nothing to hide this.

As if this were not sufficient, the ferocious attackers made deep cuts in the arms and legs before they had finished. Afro-American

No Money on Hand Sat.

Mrs. Earle, who did not view her son's body, went along in her quiet way, making plans for the funeral services, Thursday afternoon, and sitting and wondering, without saying it, where she would get the money to pay for the unexpected expense. Baltimore,

Meanwhile, the State Conference of NAACP Branches, headed by James Minton, is pressing plans to raise funds to help the family.

The others are James Sidney, 19, with the Navy in the Pacific; Leroy, 21, with the Navy in Norfolk; Lelia, 18; Daisy, 16; Mary, 7, and Wesley 11. Md.

Had Helped So Much

Married when she had just passed 16, Mrs. Earle recalled how her dead son had always been of financial aid to the family, because he was the oldest, and how she will miss him, even though there are other boys.

Her husband, Richard, died eight years ago.

Mrs. Earle recounted how Willie had finished the fifth grade in school and had worked, first for the Duke Power Co., and later "helped with a paving job" (city) to help her make ends meet.

She remembered, too, how he had always been "sort of sick" (further questioning indicated that he had been a harmless epileptic), but all the same had given no trouble and was "a good boy."

No Blood on Clothes

The quiet little woman, whose drab coat and soiled saddle oxfords gave mute testimony of her impoverishment, recounted, too, how her son had come home on Saturday night, the day he is alleged to have assaulted a white taxi driver—the act which led to his death.

She recalls that, despite contentions of police and investigators, there was no blood on his clothes and that he carried no "blood-stained knife," as reported in the dailies.

Report Not True

She sat stunned for a whole minute when it was pointed out to her that daily paper stories indicated that she had identified blood-stained shoes and clothes as those worn by her son.

Little Chance Evident

But her voice was firm as she stated calmly and simply that she had talked with no one and that her son's clothing bore no tell-tale marks.

While there is quiet talk and much headshaking over S.C.'s "shame," things go on in this and surrounding communities about the same as usual. 3-1-47-Sat.

It's anybody's guess as to whether the FBI and other crack police agents will ever go into this case deep enough to check Mrs. Earle's statements against those of local police, et al. Baltimore, Md.

Must Wait for Outcome

Daily papers in the community, backed by a strong statement of the State's new governor, Strom Thurmond, who assumed office less than a month ago, are calling for action. Afro-American

It remains to be seen whether the "action" they speak of will be another whitewash or whether South Carolinians who speak in awed terms about this being the "first lynching since 1933, and we want no more," will forget this one and let the guilty parties go unpunished, as they did in the Isaac Woodard case (the vet whose eyes were gouged out), which also happened right here in the Palmetto State.

30a S.C.

Afro-American

LYNCH VICTIM'S MOTHER

Mrs. Tessie B. Earle, 40, mother of Willie Earle, a widow who has six other children, two of them in the Navy, told the AFRO reporter, "I can't believe my boy is gone . . . he was a good boy and never did anything to anybody."

Baltimore, Md. 3-1-47 Sat.

Armed Men Push Back Jailer, Take Prisoner

30a S.C. Daily World

Atlanta, Ga. Tues 2-18-47

BY JOHN H. McCRAY

PICKENS, S. C. — (SNS) — The State Constabulary, on a "must" order, and officers from two counties moved feverishly late Monday to apprehend members of a 35-man mob which stormed the little red brick jailhouse here about 5 o'clock Monday morning, seized 35 year-old Willie Earle and a few hours later left his stabbed, shot-riddled body beside a road just over the Pickens line, in Greenville County.

Earle, a resident of Liberty, who worked in Greenville, had been arrested at Liberty early Sunday on suspicion of beating and robbing a white taxi driver of Greenville, just outside of Liberty and, robbing him of about $40. The driver, T. W. Brown, about 50, died near noon Monday in a Greenville Hospital, after his unconscious body had been found beside the road late Saturday night, two miles out of Liberty.

Sheriff Wayman H. Mauldin of Pickens County and Sheriff R. H. Bearden of Greenville County both said their forces were devoting full resources to the case. Governor J. Strom Thurmond at Columbia had issued orders to the Constabulary "to go in and bring them out," referring to the lynchers.

Jailer Ed Gilstrap said that his daughter was awakened about 4:30 a. m. by several cars arriving at the jail. Several minutes later, he said, two armed men poked guns in his face when he answered a knock at the door, demanding Earle. Simultaneously, other members of the seven car party, said to number about 35 persons entered the jail and yanked Earle out of his cell on the second floor, driving away with him. Several men remained at the jail, Gilstrap said "on guard," for half on hour. Gilstrap said he notified Sheriff Mauldin who arrived at the scene shortly after the men had left.

Meanwhile, about the state and nation machinery moved to have the lynchers apprehended. At Columbia, the NAACP, Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the Progressive Democratic Party announced they had addressed messages to Governor Thurmond backing his move to apprehend the mobbists and, urging unrelenting search until they are brought to trial.

In a telephone conversation from Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP in New York, who called for full details of the story, leaders in South Carolina were advised that the NAACP had addressed communications to President Truman ,the Department of Justice and to several members of Congress urging full justice and passage of anti-lynching legislation.

The Earle lynching is the first uncontested lynching in South Carolina since 1927 when a mob strung up two brothers and a sister of the Lowman family in Aiken County. However, Tuskegee Institute confirmed today that its last officially recorded lynching for the state occurred in 1941 in the Truesdale murder at Andrews in Georgetown County, for which two white men were sentenced to the penitentiary. Numerous other deaths of Negroes by white groups have been disputed as lynchings, the Andrews case among them. Last August 12, a white mob at Elko, in Barnwell county, followed home and shot dead through the back, 25-year-old James Walker, which considered a lynching by some groups but disputed by other. 2-18-47

Carolina Lynch Victim's Mother May Get $2,000

Atlanta Daily World—Tues 3-4-47

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(A N P)—Mrs. Tessie B. Earle, mother of 23-year-old Willie Earle, who was lynched in Greenville county February 17, is entitled to $2,000 from Greenville county, legal circles agreed this week. 30a

The sum is a statutory provision in the state constitution and there appears little chance of Mrs. Earle not receiving the stipulation.

Section 6 of Article 6 of the state constitution says: "In the case of any prisoner lawfully in the charge, custody or control of any officer, state, county or municipal, being seized and taken from said officer through his negligence, permission or connivance by a mob or other unlawful assemblage of persons, and at their hands suffering bodily violence or death. The provision outlines the penalties against officers involved and the procedure for prosecution and punishment of the officer and adds, "provided, in all cases of lynching when death ensues, the county where such lynching takes place shall, without regard to the conduct of the officers, be liable in exemplary damages of not less than $2,000, to the legal representatives of the person lynched

Atlanta Daily World
Tues 3-18-47
Atlanta Ga

Legal circles explained that while two counties are involved in the Earle lynching, the victim having been abducted from the jail in Pickens county, the crime itself was committed in Greenville county, which county is therefore, responsible for the stipulation.

—JOIN THE NAACP—

Lynch Mobsters Put Finger On Executioner of Negro

P.M. Wed 3-5-47 - New York, N.Y.

30a

Confessed members of the lynch mob which snatched Willie Earle from Pickens County Jail, S. C., on Feb. 17 have identified R. C. Herd, Greenville taxicab dispatcher as the "executioner" who riddled the Negro with a shotgun blast and then said "give me some more shells, boys." Wed 3-5-47

H. T. Fleming, Greenville taxi driver, put the finger on Herd yesterday as a coroner's jury began hearing statements signed by 26 of the 30 men arrested on murder charges. New York, N.Y.

Fleming, whose story was corroborated by others, said Herd rounded up the lynch mob after Earle was jailed on suspicion of having robbed and wounded a Greenville taxi driver, who died a few hours after Earle's murder.

Earle was beaten severely en-route to the lynch scene, Fleming said, and was then taken from the car and was killed by Herd.

This Morning

Times Union

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES

Jacksonville Fla.

"Words are but the shadows of actions...."

Times Union

But here's hoping nothing will distract South Carolinians now from a job having to do with something more important than alleged freight rate relief. That is the job of using all their moral and political weight to make sure of punishment for the recent lynch murderers. Lynching is almost extinct in the South, yes, and South Carolina hadn't had one in six years, but unless and until we come to be swift and sure in application of our criminal laws when lynching does occur, we may have to begin all over with the extinguishing process, as Editor George Buchanan of The Columbia Record warned recently. 30a S.C.

Jacksonville, Fla.

The Spartanburg Herald has a better word than lynching for what happened in Pickens and Greenville counties. "Mass murder," it calls the deed. That is what it was—murder. "There is no defence for it," says The Herald, "and no excuse for this sort of thing in South Carolina at this period of the country's enlightenment." It has been a long time since there was a lynching in South Carolina. The important thing is to make sure it will be a still longer time before there is another. Fri 2-28-47

PRESIDENT'S CIVIL RIGHTS
BODY INTO S.C. LYNCHING

February 21, 1947

30a

New York, Feb 20th--The President's Commission on Civil Rights is "deeply concerned" over the lynching in Pickens, S.C., February 17 and the case will "command our closest attention." This was the assertion of Charles E. Wilson, chairman, in a telegram to the NAACP February 17.

The Press Service of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Earlier, Walter White, NAACP secretary, had telegraphed Chairman Wilson: "As a basis for recommendations to the President and the Congress we urge an immediate investigation of these lynchers who have further added to the wave of lawlessness which threatens not only minorities, but American democracy as well."

A similar telegram was sent to Attorney General Tom Clark of the Department of Justice. New York N.Y.

In addition, the NAACP launched its own investigation through the office of its state conference of branches at Columbia, S.C.

Feb. 21-1947

NAACP investigators said the victim, Willie Earle, 25, was subject to epileptic attacks and was not regularly employed on this account. He is said to have arrived in his home in Liberty, S.C., six miles from Greenville, at 10:30 p.m., Saturday. The robbery and fatal attack on a white taxi driver in Greenville occurred Saturday night. The possibility exists, said NAACP investigators in South Carolina, that Earle was innocent, but the white taxi driver died just after "identifying" Earle, so that there is now little chance that anyone else could be held for the crime for which Earle was lynched.

It was announced February 20 that eleven taxi drivers of Greenville had confessed to complicity in the lynching, and that a twelfth man was being sought. South Carolina has a state anti-lynching law so that the men can be brought to trial if a grand jury returns an indictment.

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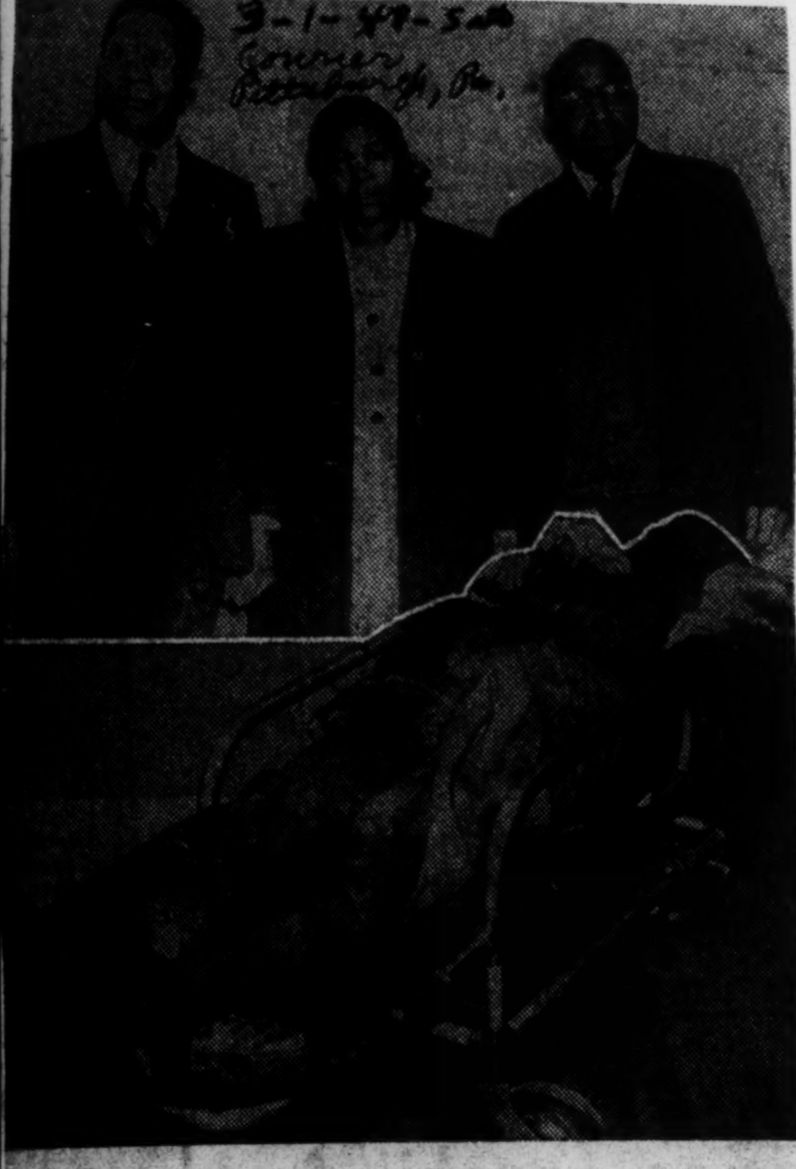
3-1-47-5ab
Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mother and Lynch Victim—Bestiality in keeping with cannibalism is evident in the morgue photo of the body of Willie Earle, 24 (bottom), lynched by killers at Pickens, S. C. The lower left jaw and neck are filled. They, with two other spots, were carved out before the shotgun blast. Two inches above the left elbow, the arm was cut to the bone. The thigh was also cut to the bone through its fleshy portion. Not shown is a five-inch diameter carving under the heart, and a similar but smaller cutting near the solar plexus. Top: the Rev. Charles H. Brown (left), chairman of the NAACP Legal Redress Committee, with Mrs. Tessie Earle (center), mother of the lynch victim, and S. C. Franks of S. C. Franks and Sons Funeral Home, Greenville, S. C., who buried the body.

3-1-47-5ab. Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

Three Businessmen In S.C. Mob Lineup

Courier 3-1-47-5ab.
Pittsburgh, Pa.
30a S.C. (Indictment)

By JOHN H. McCRAY, Special Correspondent

GREENVILLE, S. C.—Thirty-one men, twenty-eight of them local taxi drivers and three of them businessmen, were formally charged with murder and the lynching of 23-year-old Willie Earle in a warrant issued by City Magistrate Bates Aiken here Friday night, five days after Earle's horribly mutilated, shot and gouged body was found four and two-tenths miles out of town, dumped there across from the Crenshaw Packing House about an hour after his seizure in the Pickens County Jail.

All but one of the men were in jail, the missing man being on a business trip to New York City when the warrant was drawn. But Greenville County Sheriff R. H. Rearden indicated that other arrests may follow, that officers of six agencies were continuing their probe. He added, however, that "we've about reached the bottom of the barrel." Pittsburgh, Pa.

TRIGGER MAN SOUGHT

A firm hunt was on for an unidentified man, believed to have been the trigger man who fired the blast which tore away Earle's face. Sheriff Rearden disclosed that more than two hundred suspects had been questioned in the five-day hunt, but only one other person was being held for further questioning in the case, whose name was not among those listed in the murder warrant. 3-1-47-5ab.

The three businessmen charged with participating in the lynching are John B. Marchant, 28; Earle E. Martin, 28, and Walter Oakley, 57, part owner of the Rainbow Cafe on West Court, across the street from headquarters of the Yellow Cab Company. Courier

FIVE CAB COMPANIES

Employes of five taxi companies: Yellow Cab, Commercial, Greenville, Blue Bird, and American figured in the lynching. The murder, name and ages of the drivers are listed as: Pittsburgh, Pa.

Yellow Cab (10): Willie E. Bishop, 27; Hubert Carter, 33; Woodrow W. Clardy, 30; James Robert Forrester, 43; Paul Griggs Jr., 27; John Clifton Joy, 24; George Rogers McFalls, 24; Jeremiah C. McNeeley, 30; Hendrix Rector, 32, and Samuel D. Stewart, 28.

Commercial Cab (3): James T. Cantrell, 19; Walter Crawford, 32, and Duran G. Keenan, 24.

Greenville Cab Company (3) Charles M. Covington, 20; James Arthur Fowler, 30, and Howard Thompson. Courier

Blue Bird Company (7): Henry Culbertson, 28; Marvin H. Flemingfl, 31; R. Carlos Herd Sr., 45; V. Grady Scott, 35; Franklin D. Shephard, 27; Albert E. Sims, 23, and Ernest Stokes, 35.

American Cab Company (5) Perry Murrell, 26; Jesse Lee Sammons, 29; Vardry McBee Norris, 30; Fletcher [illegible] 25 and John J. Willimon, Pittsburgh, Pa.

MAY BE TRIED IN MARCH

Sheriff Rearden said Martin was the businessman out of the State at the time, but who was expected to return during the day.

Solicitor Robert T. Ashmore, who had suspended trials at Pickens to devote full time to the case, said that bond for the accused men would be set following a conference with Circuit Judge J. Robert Martin and, that the case may be tried in March session of court here. 3-1-47-5ab.

He intimated, however, that lower bond may be set for some men in the group, presumably on the basis of lesser degrees of murder, not explained in the warrant.

Meanwhile, Gov. J. Strom Thurmond at Columbia expressed great satisfaction that the suspects had been jailed, and urged vigorous prosecution. Capt. G. R. Richardson of the State Constabulary had been ordered here by Thurmond Monday morning, with instructions to stay on the job until every guilty person was arrested or every clue exhausted.

And, mixed with the shame and regret occasioned by the grotesque lynching, citizens expressed jubilance that law enforcement officers—about fifty in all—had worked twenty-four hours grilling and arresting suspects until the apparent "break" had been made.

FBI ON CASE

In addition to the constabulary, other officers included the FBI, State Highway Patrol, Greenville Police Department, and the forces of Sheriff Rearden and of Sheriff Wayman H. Mauldin of Pickens County, who had arrested Earle Sunday morning for questioning in connection with the robbery and fatal wounding of T. W. Brown, 50-year-old Yellow cab driver, near Liberty in Pickens County, late Saturday night.

The warrant charged the thirty-one men "did commit the offense of murder: In that the said defendants did willfully, maliciously, feloniously and unlawfully did conspire, congregate and assemble themselves into a mob, and while so assembled, did by force, threats and intimidations and with the use of shotguns and other weapons, did force the jailer of Pickens County, S. C.—namely, J. E. Gilstrap—to open the jail cell and turn over to the said defendants one Willie Earle, a prisoner within his custody. And did by force of arms, convey the said Willie Earle to Greenville County, S. C., and then there did shoot, cut, stab, beat and bruise the said Willie Earle, thereby mortally wounding him, and as a result of the said wounds, the said Willie Earle did then and there die."

ORGY OF MUTILATIONS

The formal charges came thirty hours after the horribly mutilated body of Earle was funeralized from Mount Abel Baptist Church. The mobbists performed an orgy of mutilations, almost impossible to believe. Courier

Using one or more knives, they carved away most of the lower left face and part of the neck, slashed the left arm and thigh to the bone, cut a five-inch diameter under the heart, and another circle out of the stomach in the region of the solar plexus; bashed a hole in the forehead, and then blasted away practically all of the right face with a shotgun.

At the S. C. Franks Funeral Home, 700 Anderson Street, which handled the funeral, it was reported that teeth were blasted into the throat, the right eye blown out, most of the nose and a portion of the mouth. The prepared body showed an almost rebuilt head with plaster paris. Pittsburgh, Pa.

NO FUNDS

Interviewed by NAACP representatives and reporters, Mrs. Tessie B. Earle, 41-year-old widowed mother of the victim, confessed that she lacked sufficient funds with which even to provide the most moderate funeral for this, her eldest son. NAACP leaders promised to raise a fund to help her and her six remaining children.

Mrs. Earle said Willie was born Sept. 24, 1923, and had, since infancy, suffered "spells." Frequently seized by these, she said, he carried on his person a filled prescription at all times. Limited by a fourth grade education, he had worked as a laborer on numerous jobs. Supporting her declaration that he had never been in trouble is the absence of a police record, excepting his having been detained for investigation by Greenville police last year, being released without charges. 3-1-47-5ab.

NO SERVICE RECORD

The victim, his mother said, had no service record, although he had been called up for induction. However, two brothers are now in the Navy—one in the Pacific, whom she identified as Leroy Earle, 22, at Norfolk, Va., with three years of service, and James Sidney Earle, 20, on duty in the Pacific, who has eighteen months of service.

A daughter, Alethia Avalene, 18, is at Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville, Fla., and the three youngest children, Daisy Christine, 16; Mary Magdaline, 7, and Wesley Earle, 11, are all in school. Mrs. Earle lost her husband, Richard Earle, seven years ago, and works as a menial in a white cafe at Liberty.

While authorities reported she had identified a pocket-knife and a jacket allegedly belonging to her dead son, Mrs. Earle told reporters she had not been questioned by any person.

Living in Liberty, fourteen miles from here, the grieving mother said the victim arrived home shortly after she did Saturday night, the first visit he had made in several weeks. He told her he had traveled by bus and later, when she noticed several taxi drivers at a home near her house and saw police officers, she repeated the question and was told that having been ill for "three or four weeks," he had no money to pay the $12 fare by taxi from Greenville to Liberty. He had less than $4 then, she said.

(The taxi driver was reported to have been robbed of $40.)

Stating her son had been drinking, she said he slept on a sofa in the house in his clothes, and that they bore no blood stains.

LEFT HIM IN BED

Upon leaving for work Sunday morning, she said the victim was still alseep, but just before noon a neighbor telephoned her work place that he had been arrested in a car of local young men. She had no further word for twenty-four hours, when a white man who knew the family came to report: "I'm bringing you sad news," detailing the gruesome, sordid story the rest of the country had heard nearly ten hours before.

Sheriff Mauldin said he, Deputy Wayne Garrett and Liberty officers, D. B. Owens and L. E. Berck, had arrested Earle at a filling station, and while he vigorously denied implication in the robbery slaying, he was so much under the influence of alcohol that they had placed him in the Pickens County jail, six miles away, and planned to question him extensively Monday morning. Courier

It was from his second-story cell there that he was seized about 5 o'clock Monday morning and, minutes later, his mutilated body was found on the Bramlett Road, half a mile inside Greenville County, by a yet unidentified man who phoned the fact to the Joe Sullivan Funeral Home, who in turn notified Coroner J. O. Turner.

Coroner Turner arrived at the scene shortly afterwards and had the body removed to the city hospital. 3-1-47-5ab.

At the Pickens jail, 62-year-old Jailer Gilstrap said his daughter, Miss Addie Gilstrap, was awakened by arrival of several cars at about 4:30 A. M. Shortly afterwards, he opened his door in response to a knock and was confronted with a shotgun and pistol in the hands of two men who demanded Earle.

23 Taxi Drivers Sign Statements

Afro-American 3-1-47-Sat.

30a S.C. (Indictment)

Baltimore, Md.

Hunt 'Trigger Man', Business Leader; State on Trial, Solicitor Concedes

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Twenty-three of 27 men, all local taxi drivers, signed statements Friday admitting participation in the lynching of Willie Earle, 23, near here Feb. 17, Sheriff R. H. Bearden disclosed. Two other key suspects, the "trigger man," also a driver, and a prominent man are sought.

All taxi drivers here, numbering 200, were taken into custody for questioning Friday night, following an intensive investigation by Bearden, State police, county and local officers, and FBI agents dispatched from Charlotte (N.C.) by orders of J. Edgar Hoover, bureau chief. Afro-American 3-1-47-Sat.

The single warrant sworn out by Bearden charged 31 local men (29 of whom are taxi drivers) with murder, 30 of whom are in custody.

The sheriff said that the "trigger man" who killed Earle was a taxi driver, and that another suspect in the lynching operates a restaurant, and is a prominent local business man. Baltimore, Md.

Governor Shows Concern

Before the warrant had been signed by Bearden before Magistrate Bates Aiken, Governor J. Strom Thurmond announced in Columbia that he would call upon Attorney General John M. Daniel to see that Solicitor Robert T. Ashmore gets all help necessary to prepare and prosecute the case.

"The case ought to be prosecuted strongly," the governor commented. "The officers are doing a mighty fine job in Greenville, and it won't be long until the entire case is cleaned up." 3-1-47-Sat.

State on Trial

The solicitor, who has been in close touch with the sheriff, indicated that the case may be called for trial during the March term of court here.

He said he would welcome the services of the attorney general, particularly since the State of South Carolina "will be on trial at the bar of public opinion in this case."

The solicitor added that the case is "one of wide implications, and we want to do everything possible to bring the guilty to justice."

Warrant All-Inclusive

The warrant charges the defendants with collectively committing "the offense of murder, in that they did wilfully, maliciously, feloniously and unlawfully conspire, congregate and assemble themselves into a mob; Afro-American

"And while so assembled, did by force, threats and intimidation, and with use of shotguns and other weapons, force the jailer of Pickens County to open the jail cell and turn over to them Willie Earle, a prisoner within his custody; Baltimore, Md.

"And did by force of arms convey Earle to Greenville County, S.C., and then and there did shoot, cut, stab, beat and bruise Earle, thereby mortally wounding him."

Sat. **Members of Mob** 3-1-47

The defendants identified in the warrant by Sheriff Bearden are:

Willie E. Bishop, James T. Cantrell, Hubert Carter, Woodrow W. Clardy, Charles M. Covington, Walter Crawford, Henry Culbertson, Marion H. Fleming, James Robert Forrester, James Arthur Fowler, Paul Griggs Jr., R. Carlos Herd Sr., John Clifton Joy, Duran G. Keenan, John B. Marchant, Earl E. Martin, George Rogers McFalls, Jerimiah C. McNeeley, Perry Murrell, Vardry McBee Norris, Walter Oakley, Hendrix Rector, Jesse Lee Sammons, V. Grady Scott, Franklin D. Shephard, Albert F. Sims, Samue lD. Stewart, Ernest Stokes, Fletcher B. Sweet, Howard Thompson and John J. Willimon. 3-1-47

NO RESISTANCE — Here is the door of the cell in Pickens, S. C., from which a band of armed men took Willie Earle and lynched him. Jailer Ed Gilstrap, whose hand is shown, said he offered no resistance because he "didn't figure it was any use."—International News Soundphoto.

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11 Taxi Drivers Confess Carolina Lynch Roles

Constitution 2-21-47-Fri.

30a S.C. (Lynching)

Atlanta, Ga.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Feb. 20—(AP)—Sheriff R. H. Bearden said Thursday he had obtained signed admissions form 11 Greenville taxi drivers to taking part in Monday's lynching of a 24-year-old Negro near here, but was pushing his investigation in the hope of rounding up other possible suspects. 2-21-47

Bearden did not disclose the names of the taxi drivers or the details of their statements. He said another man was being questioned closely to determine whether he was the "trigger man," alleged to have fired a fatal shotgun charge into the head of Willie Earle a short time after the latter had been taken from the nearby Pickens County Jail and brought into Greenville County. Constitution

In the intensive investigation launched when Earle's still warm body was found beside a country road, showing five stab wounds besides the gunshot hole, Bearden was assisted by State constables and highway patrolmen, County and City officers, and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Atlanta, Ga.

Earle was seized in the Pickens Jail by an armed but unmasked band estimated by Jailer Ed Gilstrap to number 25 men. The Negro had been arrested as a suspect in the fatal stabbing and robbery of T. W. Brown, a Greenville taxi driver. Constitution

Pickens officers said he denied being Brown's assailant, but a Coroner's jury held after an inquest into the taxi driver's death that Earle was responsible.

In addition to the 11 cab drivers reported to have made statements, Bearden said at least nine other men had been picked up for questioning, and were still being held although they protested their innocence. 2-21-47-Fri.

No formal charges were preferred immediately. The Sheriff said he would confer with Solicitor Robert T. Ashmore about the wording of the warrants to be issued. Atlanta, Ga.

Ashmore said the case might be presented to the County Grand Jury at a term of court beginning March 10.

Closest Attention Being Given, Chairman States

30a S.C. (Lynch)

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga. Sun. 2-23-47

NEW YORK—The President's Commission on Civil Rights is "deeply concerned" over the lynching in Pickens, S. C., February 17 and the case will "command our closest attention." This was the assertion of Charles E. Wilson, chairman, in a telegram to the NAACP February 17.

Earlier, Walter White, NAACP secretary, had telegraphed Chairman Wilson: As a basis for recommendations to the President and the Congress we urge an immediate investigation of these lynchers who have further added to the wave of lawlessness which threatened not only minorities, but American democracy as well."

CLARK URGED

A similar telegram was sent to Attorney General Tom Clark of the Department of Justice.

In addition the NAACP launched its own investigation through the office of its state conference of branches at Columbia, S. C.

SUBJECT TO ATTACKS

NAACP investigators said the victim, Willie Earle, 25, was subject to epileptic attacks and was not regularly employed on this account. He is said to have arrived in his home in Liberty, S. C., six miles from Greenville, at 10:30 p.m., on Saturday. The robbery and fatal attack on white taxi driver in Greenville occurred Saturday night. The possibility exists, said NAACP investigators in South Carolina, that Earle was innocent, but the white taxi driver died just after "identifying" Earle, so that there is now little chance that anyone else could be held for the crime for which Earle was lynched.

It was announced Friday that 23 taxi drivers of Greenville had confessed to complicity in the lynching, and that others were being sought. South Carolina has a state anti-lynching law so that the men can be brought to trial if a grand jury returns an indictment.

7509

Torture of Negro Told In Court, But No One Confesses Doing It

Louisville, Ky.

Last of 26 Statements Read

30a (Trial)

Greenville, S. C., May 16 (AP)—The death agonies of Negro Willie eEarle, victim of a South Carolina lynch-mob, were told and retold in Greenville County Criminal Court today as the prosecution read the last of 26 statements which have implicated 31 defendants in the murder.

As the State neared conclusion of its case against the accused white men, the defense fought determinedly to establish two points. These were: (1) That the statements were obtained after arrest by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who threatened prosecution in United States District Court, and (2) That local officers told suspects if a large number acknowledged participation, no South Carolina jury would convict them.

City, County, and State police officers and the F.B.I. have rejected these suggestions, and declared the incriminating statements were freely made.

Twenty-eight of the 31 defendants are taxi drivers, and evidence thus far established at least three are illiterate, another went to school through the second grade, still another had only three years education.

Associated Press Wirephoto.

HENDRIX RECTOR

Accused in lynching trial.

Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, Sr., 45, thick-set, near-sighted cab dispatcher, has been named by eight codefendants as the man who fired one or more shotgun blasts into the Negro's head as he lay beaten and bleeding on a lonely roadside last February 17.

The Negro was slain in reprisal for the fatal stabbing of a white taxi driver.

Accused of Hitting Victim.

Hurd, in his statement to police, acknowledged participation in the lynching, but denied that he had been the executioner.

A similiar admission was read to jury today when the prosecution introduced the statement of Hendrix Rector.

The sharp-faced, balding cab-driver is accused by other self-acknowledged members of the mob as having struck the victim with the butt of his gun and then cut him with a knife.

The State claims the Negro was horribly beaten and had chunks of flesh gouged from his living body by knives before a 12-gauge shotgun put an end to his agony.

Rector's statement, made last winter and read in evidence today, said he accompanied other taxidrivers to the execution spot.

Don't Know Who Shot.

"When we parked," he related, "the Negro was on the ground between the cars, and somebody shot him three times; I don't know who shot him."

Earlier, however, the statement of James Robert Forrester, 33, said Rector hit the Negro with the butt of his gun, and then slashed him with a knife.

The prosecution introduced in evidence a statement made by Paul F. Griggs, Jr., a 22-year-old former commando, at the time of his arrest.

Forrester had told police he saw Griggs and Rector striking at the Negro "as though they were cutting his head and neck," but Griggs insisted he had turned away. 5-11-47

3

Other Men's Opinions

SOUTH CAROLINA JUSTICE

(From The Berkshire (Mass.) Evening Eagle)

30a (Trial)

It is axiomatic that race feeling varies according to the ratio that the alien race bears to the dominant one; anti-Japanese feeling is strongest on the West Coast and anti-negro feeling in the Deep South. And because South Carolina, from early days, had so large a number of negroes that the blacks exceeded the whites (in 1880 by the ratio of three to two), South Carolina's thinking has always been dominated by the negro question. Its dependence on slave labor made it the leader in nullification and in secession; it touched off the Civil War by the attack on Fort Sumter; it was marked for particular vengeance by the congressional radicals during the Johnson administration; it suffered more under Reconstruction than any other state. Anti-Northern feeling, quite understandably, has been stronger there than in almost any other part of the South, and the laws discriminating against negroes (and Republicans) have been singularly stringent.

With all this intense feeling, it is only fair to say that the "Old South State's" lynching record has been much better than that of some of its neighbors. Until recently it had no lynching for 14 years. In any event, the speed and decisiveness with which the state authorities have moved against the perpetrators of the mob-killing of a negro who had allegedly stabbed a Greenville taxi-driver has been extraordinary. No less so is the apparent support by the citizens of the murder trial against the 31 defendants. Whereas in most lynchings as, for example, the killing of four negroes near Monroe, Ga., in July, 1946, all attempts to unearth any evidence regarding the identity of the assassins have run into a stone wall, the state appears to have no trouble in identifying all members of the mob who killed Willie Earle on the night of February 15.

The Greenville trial serves notice that South Carolina does not intend to yield to mob rule, and that those who take the law into their own hands must be prepared to face the penalty. The example should have a profound effect throughout the South, and hearten all those in that section who have labored so hard and so effectively to remove a national blot. The example of South Carolina justice is also a lesson to well-meaning but injudicious Northern liberals that the South is moving to settle its own problems, and that interference by outsiders from the wrong side of the Mason-Dixon line does much more harm than good. 5-12-47

Statements In Lynch Case Label Hurd 'Trigger Man'

Advertiser

30a (Trial)

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 14.—(AP)—R. Carlos Hurd, Sr., a 45-year-old taxicab dispatcher, was named in statements today by four of the 31 defendants as the man who fired shotgun volleys through the head of a gashed and beaten Negro, 24-year-old Willie Earle.

Montgomery

Hurd, one of those on trial, previously had been named as the trigger man in the state's indictments.

Alabama

A statement attributed to George M. Covington, a taxi driver, and read to the jury, said that Hurd shouted "let's get it over with," shot the Negro, reloaded and shot him again.

Statements introduced by the state as coming from Walter T. Crawford and Henry Vernon Culbertson, other defendants, also said Hurd shot the Negro.

These statements were among several alleged confessions by various defendants to varying participation in the mob-slaying, and introduced today into the murder trial of 28 cab drivers and three businessmen. They were introduced over defense objections. 5-15-47

They are accused of spiriting Earle away from the Pickens County jail in an adjoining county and knifing and fatally shooting him beside a slaughter pen on a country road near here before dawn last February 17. Earle was being held in connection with the stabbing of T. W. Brown, a taxi driver who later died.

The other statements were allegedly by James Truman Cantrell, 19-year-old taxi driver, and Hubert Carter. Advertiser

Covington's statement said Hurd fired two shots into Earle's head while the 24-year-old Negro was lying on the ground, resting on his elbows after having already been beaten and stabbed.

In spite of vigorous defense protests, Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., announced he would admit the signed statements. He said the defense could attempt later in the trial to show the statements were not competent. 5-15-47

Accused S. C. Taxi Driver Denies Firing Shotgun Blasts at Lynching

30a (Trial)

Atlanta, Ga.

Constitution

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 15—(UP)—Stocky Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, identified by five fellow-defendants as the organizer, leader and executioner in the mob that lynched Negro Willie Earle, flatly denied Thursday that he had fired the coup de grace shotgun blasts.

In fact, Hurd said in a statement read at the mass trial of 31 suspected lynchers, the lynching party was so distasteful to him that "when I seen they were going to kill the Negro, I just turned around, because I didn't want to see it happen." 5-16-47

The accused trigger-man's statement provided the high spot of testimony on the fourth day of the unprecedented trial in the hot, yellow brick Greenville County courthouse where hundreds of curious, including 100 Negroes segregated in the gallery, again had packed the chamber.

Previous statements signed in the names of defendants had pictured Hurd as the moving spirit asked for more shells to fire into the lifeless body.

But Hurd's own statement, read as the defendant blinked through his glasses where he sat in the crowded prisoners' dock, admitted only that he had attended the lynching proceedings, swept along by the temper of the mob.

His statement said he was at the bus station when W. W. Clardy, another defendant, stopped by and asked him to go to the cab office. When he got there he found a bunch of drivers talking about going to Pickens and getting the Negro who had wounded a member of the taxi force, T. W. Brown, who later died.

When the crowd reached the jail, Hurd said, "somebody woke up the jailor—I started upstairs and met them coming down with the nigger." Previous testimony was that Hurd had acted as spokesman when the mob reached the jail.

30a Constitution

Hurd, who admitted in his statement that he had only a second grade education, said he got in Clardy's cab with Earle in the back seat and "there was a gun on the seat between another man and myself—it was the first I had seen it."

Atlanta, Ga.

"All of us questioned the Negro and he admitted cutting Mr. Brown," Hurd's statement continued. Ernest Stokes, the statement said, told the Negro "We've brought you out here to kill you."

Then, Hurd said, the lynchers dragged the Negro out of the car and "everybody started beating him. Somebody fired the gun two or three times—I don't know who fired the gun." Then he added he had turned his head to avoid seeing the execution.

FBI Agent Tullis D. Easterling testified as to the circumstances of Hurd's "confession." He said the 45-year-old taxi dispatcher had at first denied any knowledge of the lynching, contending he was at home at the time and that his wife and two daughters and son could verify the fact.

Easterling asked him "Do you think either of your daughters would lie for you?" the FBI testified. "It's not necessary," he said Hurd replied. "I'll tell you what I know." Jnl 5-16-47

After getting the statement off his chest, Hurd remarked "I feel better now—I know what a mistake I made," Easterling testified.

A purported statement by Franklin Dewitt Shepherd also named Hurd as the actual killer and singled out Clardy and Stokes, two of the five men who have not submitted statements, as Hurd's chief lieutenants.

Shepherd said Hurd had called from the Blue Bird Cab Company switchboard to see how many drivers of other cab companies "wanted to go to Pickens."

When the crowd made a rendezvous at the Saluda River, Shepherd said, Hurd told the assembled mob "We're not going to take no for an answer—we're going to get him." Hurd, he said, told the jailor at Pickens "I want the nigger that cut the cab driver."

Cabbie Paul F. Griggs, Jr., 22, curly-haired and youngest of the defendants, was the one who "jerked the nigger down the steps" of the jail, according to Shepherd. He verified four previous statements naming Hurd as the executioner.

Shepherd said Earle confessed stabbing Brown and "everybody wanted to kill him at that time."

Defendant Hendrix Rector said "that's all I want to know," Shepherd's statement said. While Clardy remarked, "If you're going to kill him, get him out of this car."

Griggs hit the Negro a couple of times in the face, Shepherd said, and Rector "beat him with a shotgun."

Then, he said, Hurd "shot three times and asked for another shell. Someone said 'no, he's dead already'." Jnl 5-16-47

John C. (Fat) Joy blushed and giggled in the dock when his statement was introduced. Then he resumed his gum chewing and listened closely, rolls of flesh straining against his belt.

Joy, 24-year-old father of three children, admitted he rode to Pickens with the lynching party but arrived at the slaying scene after it was over.

"Hell, the nigger is dead, let's go," Joy said he heard somebody say. He noted "a short man with a double-barrel shotgun" in the mob but he did not name anyone as Earle's slayer. (30a)

The introduction of each statement brought on sharp questioning by defense counsel as to the validity of the "confessions."

Defense Atty. Thomas A. Wofford asked V. L. Ashemoore, a State constable, if he had not told the defendants he would have "joined the mob myself" had he not been an officer. Ashemore, turning crimson while he audience laughed, vigorously denied this. Judge J. Robert Martin rapped sharply for order. Jnl 5-16-47

CONFESSIONS MARK OPENING OF 31-CABBIE LYNCH TRIAL

Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.

Thur 5-13-47

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 14—(UP)—A defendant's confession, describing a pre-dawn rendezvous at the Greenville Yellow Cab office "to go get the Negro who cut Mr. Brown," was read Tuesday as testimony began in the mass trial of 31 men charged with lynching Willie Earle. (30a)

The statement was signed by Willie Eugene Bishop, a 27-year-old cab driver with a seventh grade education who admitted he went to the cab office with the intention of participating in the lynching, but did not get to the execution scene in time.

It was the first to be read of the 26 statements made by defendants on trial for murder in the slaying of Earle last Feb. 16. The Negro was abducted from the jail in adjoining Pickens County, and his body, ripped by a knife and blasted by a shotgun, was found a few hours later in Greenville County.

The obvious motive of the lynching was retaliation for the critical wounding of Greenville Cabbie W. T. Brown, of Greenville, who followed Earle in death by a few hours.

While a crowd of 500 including the shirt-sleeved defendants packed tightly in the small courtroom, listened intently, Bishop's statement was entered as evidence. It described how the mob gathered at the Yellow Cab office on Greenville's West Court Street in sight of the Courthouse.

Bishop said that another defendant, W. D. Oakley, 58, a cafe owner across the street from the cab office, had asked to be notified when "the boys went out to get the Negro that cut Mr. Brown," so he could go along. Bishop also named 10 other defendants as members of the caravan that started for the Pickens jail.

Bishop added that his car got lost from the caravan, and he never actually saw the Negro; but "I went to Pickens for the purpose of getting the Negro and killing him."

Bishop's statement said that one car in the caravan had a flat tire; and two chaingang guards, Earl Porter and L. H. Crowe, were called to the stand to identify Defendant Paul F. Griggs, 22, as the man who had come to claim the car shortly after the lynching.

White-haired Jailer Ed Gilstrap testified in a quavering voice as to how the lynch mob came to his jail in Pickens, and "asked me if I had a Negro there for stabbing a taxi driver; and said 'we've some after him.' Atlanta, Ga.

"I knew they meant business," said the 60-year-old, heavy set jailer. "They had a shotgun."

He dared not resist them, he said, so he led the mob upstairs where Earle was held behind four locked doors. Two of the men went into the cell and pulled Earle out, Gilstrap said; and he himself remained behind to relock the doors so he did not see the lynchers leave.

Gilstrap said he could not identify any of the mob, but some wore taxi-driver caps. Gilstrap's close-cut head showed two recent scars where he was wounded two weeks ago during an attempted jail break. He killed one of the would-be escapers.

During Tuesday's testimony the defendants mostly chewed gum and listened impassively. Many had their wives sitting next to them. Men and women were shabbily dressed. One defendant's wife was noticeably pregnant. Defendant John C. Coy, 25-year-old cabbie, was so fat his flesh overlapped the arms of his chair. He perspired copiously.

The defendants—28 of them Greenville taxicab drivers—nervously listened to the reading of a six-page general indictment against them. It charged that they dragged Wille Earle from his Pickens County jail cell the night of Feb. 16; cut and shot him to death in reprisal for the alleged murder of a fellow cab driver, and then dumped his butchered body into a roadside ditch near a hog slaughtering pen.

Most of the men fidgeted in their seats as the charges were read. But one of the defendants, dressed in mismatched trousers and shirt, sat quietly. His chubby, blonde baby daughter was curled in his lap asleep.

A majority of the defendants had turned State's evidence before Tuesday's trial, signing confessions to their part in the lynching. They hoped the act would get them off with lighter sentences if the State won convictions.

But those confessions had resulted in flat first degree murder charges against one of their number—thin-lipped, heavy-set Roosevelt C. Hurd, 45.

Hurd was accused of being the "trigger man" of the lynch party. The shotgun that finished Willie Earle was held so close to his head that twigs on overhanging bushes were snapped off by the scattering blast of shot. A wad from the gun was lying at the rim of the pool of blood.

Hurd's cool brown eyes stared straight ahead as the State called its first witness, Dr. J. I. Converse, the county physician.

Sol. Robert Ashemore asked if he had examined Earle's body after it was found sprawled in a pool of blood, about 7 a. m. on Feb. 17.

"I did," the physician replied.

"Tell the jury what you found."

The tense audience of some 300 white persons and 200 Negroes leaned forward so as not to miss a word of Converse's testimony.

He said Earle had been stabbed five times—in the chest, stomach, forehead, neck and right thigh. But none of these five knife wounds, he said, were sufficient to have caused death. It was the shotgun blast, he testified, which entered the right temple and ripped through the left side of his neck which ended the Negro's life. Thur 5-15-47

State Rests Case in Trial of Cabbies; Judge Rejects Pictures as Evidence

(30a) (Cont.)

Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.

Sun 5-17-47

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 17—(AP)—The State of South Carolina rested its case Saturday against 31 white defendants, after Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., refused to admit in evidence the State's pictures of a Negro lynched last Feb. 17 by members of a mob.

Defense attorneys protested that the photographs were "incompetent, and highly prejudicial" to the defendants. "They don't prove a thing," said Defense Counsel Thomas Wofford, "except that the Negro is dead and everybody admits that."

Solicitor Sam Watt insisted that the evidence was proper, arguing "the manner in which the body is mutilated certainly goes to prove malice in a murder charge.

"We feel in thisi case these pictures accurately portray the manner in which they (the defendants) went about killing this Negro. They are competent evidence and very valuable evidence on the part of the State."

Judge Martin, who earlier in the trial had declined to allow the photographs, said "Mr. Solicitor, I don't think I'll change my mind at this time." Atlanta, Ga.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation agent earlier testified that self-acknowledged members of a lynch-mob placed six accused white men in the taxicab which took Willie Earle to his death on a lonely roadside last Feb. 17.

The agent, A. B. Lea, said the lead cab from Pickens County jail where the Negro was seized, was driven by Woodrow Wilson Clardy, and listed the men guarding Willie Earle as Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, Sr., 45; Jessie Lee Sammons, 29; Hulbert Carter, 33, and Charles Maurice Covington, 20.

Before this car reached the murder scene, it stopped for questioning of the doomed man, Lea said. At this point, Sammons left the death car and Lea said he was told by Marvin Fleming, driver of another car, that Ernest Stokes, 35, got into the car with the Negro.

Stokes has been identified in statements read to the jury as the man who quizzed the doomed lynch-victim about alleged stabbing of a white taxi driver.

The FBI agent also implicated John Marchant, a member of a prominent Greenville family, as having participated actively in the mob.

He said Marchant told him during the investigation that he had driven to Pickens County jail and had followed the procession of lynchers. On the way, another car stopped with a flat tire, and Marchant picked up three alleged lynchers—Hendrix Rector, Paul F. Griggs, Jr., and James Arthur Fowler. Constitution

Lea said Rector later transferred to another vehicle before reaching the scene of the murder.

Marchant told him, he said, that he (Marchant) drove to the murder scene, passed it, and then turned back to Greenville after only a momentary halt. Marchant claimed he did not see the slaying.

The State offered Lea's testimony in a detailed reconstruction of the way the accused defendants were distributed among eight cabs and one private car.

The trial was interrupted momentarily when a State witness, John Taylor, collapsed with convulsions in the courtroom. He was carried out by several of the defendants. Sun 5-1

Sheriff Hunts Gun Used In Lynching

Advertiser
30a Montgomery, Ala.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Feb. 22.—(AP)—Officers concentrated their investigation of Monday's lynch slaying of Willie Earle in a search today for the shotgun used to blow a big hole in the head of the 24-year-old Negro, in connection with which 31 Greenville men have been formally charged with murder.

Sheriff R. H. Bearden, spokesman for the investigators, said a portion of gun stock had been found in a chimney and it was believed it might have been from the weapon sought.

Thirty of the accused men, 29 of them identified as taxi drivers, were in jail today. Bearden said the thirty-first, described as a Greenville business man, was out of the city. Sun. 2-23-47

TAXI DRIVERS ADMIT GREENVILLE LYNCHING

The Times
30a

GREENVILLE, S. C., Feb. 20 (AP)—Sheriff R. H. Bearden said today that he had obtained signed admissions from eleven Greenville taxi drivers to taking part in Monday's lynching of a 24-year-old Negro near here. New York, N.Y.

Sheriff Bearden did not disclose the names of the taxi drivers or the details of their statements. He said that another man was being questioned closely to determine whether he was the "trigger man," alleged to have fired a fatal shotgun charge into the head of Willie Earle soon after the latter had been taken from the Pickens County jail and brought into Greenville County. Fri. 2-21-47

In the investigation, begun when Earle's body was found beside a country road, showing five stab wounds in addition to the gunshot wound. Sheriff Bearden was assisted by State and local officers and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Earle was seized in the Pickens jail by an armed but unmasked band estimated by Ed Gilstrap, the jailer, to number twenty-five men. Earle had been arrested as a suspect in the fatal stabbing and robbery of T. W. Brown, a Greenville taxi driver. The Times

In addition to the eleven cab drivers reported to have made statements, Sheriff Bearden said at least nine other men had been picked up for questioning.

The Sheriff said he would confer with Solicitor Robert T. Ashemore about the wording of the warrants to be issued. Fri. 2-21-47

JEWISH UNIONISTS DEMAND PUNISHMENT OF LYNCHERS

30a S.C. Daily Worker
New York N.Y.

The American Jewish Labor Council yesterday wired Gov. J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina demanding the punishment of the lynchers of Willie Earle in Pickens County. The message read: Fri. 2-21-47

"The lynching of Willie Earle in Pickens County jail is a repudiation of the ideals 30 million died for in the war against fascism. The Jewish people, who have tasted the bitter fruits of racism and anti-Semitism, see in the tragic death of Willie Earle the rekindling of the flames of Nazi crematoria. We demand the speedy apprehension and punishment of the criminals." Fri. 2-21-47

The telegram was signed by secretary-treasurer Max Steinberg.

Cabbies Name South Carolina Lynch Leader

Daily Worker
Wed 3-5-47
30a
New York N.Y.

GREENVILLE, S. C., March 4 (UP).—Confessed members of the lynch party that abducted Willie Earle from Pickens county jail Feb. 17 testified today that R. C. Herd, Greenville taxicab dispatcher, riddled him with a shotgun blast and said, "Give me some more shells, boys."

H. T. Fleming, a slight, blond Greenville cabbie who admitted he took part in the abduction, named Herd as the instigator and the executioner.

A coroner's jury today began hearing statements signed by 26 Greenville men, including Fleming.

Other statements corroborated Fleming's testimony and said Herd rounded up drivers from several Greenville cab offices and told them of plans to snatch Earle who was a Negro from the Pickens jail. He had been held there on charges of robbing and wounding a Greenville taxi driver, W. T. Brown, several days previously. Brown died of his wounds a few hours after Earle was lynched.

Fleming testified that the lynch party went to Pickens in eight or nine cabs and abducted Earle from jailer Ed Gilstrap. Enroute to the slaying scene, about four miles outside Pickens, several of the lynchers beat Earle in the car in which he was riding.

Earle then was taken from the car and Herd dispatched the cringing Negro with one blast of a shotgun, Fleming said. Herd asked for more shells but the first one had practically torn off the side of Earle's head. Earle's body was found just inside the Greenville county line.

Jailer Gilstrap also testified today. He said he could not positively identify any members of the mob because of his poor eyesight.

THE UPPER SOUTH

The Times

Officials Worry as the First Lynching of 1947 Occurs

New York, N.Y.

By PARKE ROUSE Jr.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

RICHMOND, Feb. 22—The violent and all-too-familiar tragedy of "lynch law" was re-enacted in the South this week, giving the country its first lynching in 1947 and causing worry among many officials.

30a

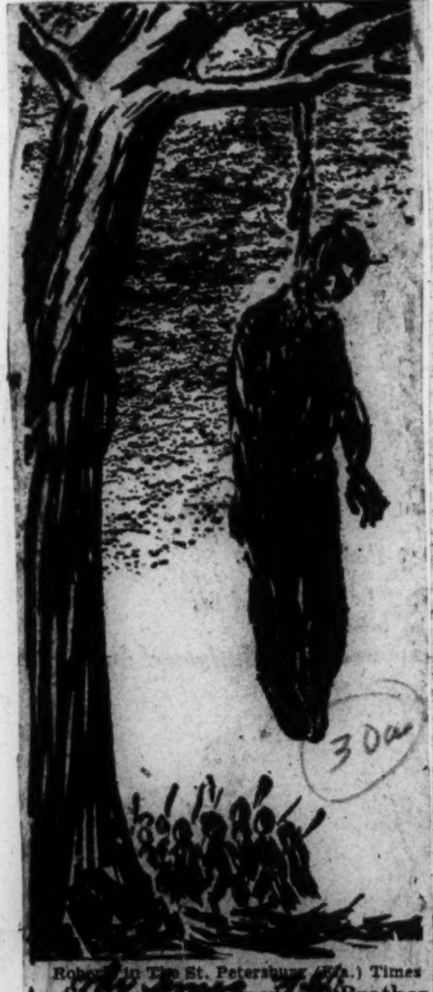
The removal of a 25-year-old Negro from a Pickens, S. C., jail by an armed band followed the usual lynch law pattern. The Negro was found beside a country road in adjacent Greenville County later, dead of a gunshot wound through the head and stab wounds. He had been arrested and jailed as a suspect in the robbery and fatal stabbing of a Greenville taxi driver.

The lynch rate in the South has shown a marked decline in the past decade, as compared with the preceding ten years, but 1946 was marked by six lynchings, four in Georgia and one each in Mississippi and Louisiana. In addition there were four "borderline cases," as listed in Tuskegee Institute's year-end lynching tabulation. Sun. 2-23-47

The record for other recent years in the South is: 1945, one; 1944, two; 1943, two; 1942, five; 1941, three; 1940, five, and 1939, two. Although these figures are deplorable, they are encouraging when compared with those of 1933 when there were forty-two, or of 1935, when there were nineteen.

The downward trend in the rate has been occasionally interrupted, as in 1942, when three Negroes were lynched in Mississippi in a single week, shortly before a Congressional election in which it had been planned that a Negro was to run against the Democratic incumbent. 2-23-47 30a

Some southern States have enacted anti-lynching laws which have proved an effective deterrent. Both Virginia and North Carolina have such laws. Each has had ninety-nine lynchings since 1882, according to Tuskegee's statistics, while Mississippi and Georgia have the highest totals, 573 and 521, respectively, for the same period.


30a

Roberts in The St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times

A Southern Comment on "Brotherhood Week in South Carolina."

Mother of Lynch Victim Gives N.Y. Interview

News and Courier
Charleston, S.C.

NEW YORK, May 25. (AP): Tessie Earle, mother of Willie Earle, 22-year-old Greenville, S. C., negro whose lynching precipitated a mass trial of 28 white men, said today that she wanted "to see that other mothers would be protected against what happened to me."

Brought here yesterday by the National Negro Day committee, the Earle woman said at a news conference that she had come to New York "for help."

The committee arranged and financed her trip so that she could appear Tuesday evening in a Madison Square rally where, members said, her presence would be "a cognizant nationwide protest against the barbarous lynching that marked Greenville, S. C."

Proceeds of the Tuesday meeting, sponsored by the committee, would go to the United Negro Colleges, the Harlem Camp Fund and the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund, with a portion to the lynch victim's mother, it was announced.

The Earle woman appeared timid and somewhat bewildered at the press conference. She answered questions of reporters hesitatingly and when she spoke her voice was so low as to be heard only with difficulty.

Asked how it felt to be in New York City, she said:

"I'm happy to be here in God's country." Mon 5-26-47

Most questions asked by reporters were answered by some member of the committee which arranged the press conference. After making an answer, the committee member would ask the Earle woman if the reply was what she would say, and she would agree.

She is employed as a cook in a Greenville restaurant. 5-26-47

The WORLD TODAY

Pittsburgh Courier
By George S. Schuyler
Pa.

Lynch terror's long arm reached to New York and compelled Mrs. Tessie Earle, mother of the Greenville (S. C.) mob victim, to remain almost mute to reporters' questioning. She was afraid of reprisals against her family. Just like in totalitarian countries. Sat. 6-7-47

Thirty-five Who Are Guilty of Murder

30a

A 24-YEAR-OLD Negro, suspected of murdering a white taxi driver, was taken from the Pickens, S. C., jail early Monday morning by a mob of 35 white men, and murdered. It was South Carolina's first lynching in six years.

The sheriffs of Pickens and Greenville Counties say they are co-operating fully to trace the lynchers. That should be no more difficult than tracking an elephant through six feet of snow. Some of the lynchers are said to have worn taxi drivers' caps. None of them was masked. While going after the Negro youth, their cars were left in the jail yard long enough to make their identification possible. The night turnkey, who was forced at gunpoint to take the lynchers to their victim's cell, should be able to describe accurately the ringleaders of this murderous gang.

The Negro youth, said by the Pickens sheriff to have had "a bad record," had been arrested after a bloodstained shirt and a bloodstained knife had been found in his home Richmond, Va.

His police record and the circumstantial evidence against him point to the likelihood of his having been guilty of the crime for which he was being held. Yet the lynching was not so much a crime against the victim, as a crime against the law and order of the State—a law above race prejudice and discrimination. Richmond Times-Dispatch

It is probable that the bloodstained shirt and bloodstained knife introduced as exhibits in the Negro's trial for the fatal stabbing, would have sufficed to convict him. Yet this bloodthirsty mob elected to take the law into its own hands.

Their motive in doing so was not a desire to see justice done, for they had no reason to believe that justice would be defeated. They were motivated by a sadistic impulse, as HITLER's hoodlums were in their murders of innocent Jews and anti-Nazis. Thurs. 2-20-47

Their crime was just as heinous as that of the man who murdered the taxi driver, whatever his motives may have been. But because the color of their skin was different from his, because they were of the race which made the law which he may have violated, they saw fit to band together to sate their lust for blood, with shotguns and with knives.

Those 35 murderers no doubt pride themselves upon their "white supremacy." Yet they have done immeasurable harm to the prestige of their race. They have dragged its name into the mire, and by the nature of their transgression against the code of human decency, have exposed the thin veneer of their civilization and sunk to the level of savages. Thurs. 2-20-47

We can only hope that the State of South Carolina will spare no effort to bring these sadists to justice and thereby wipe out this blot against its name.

Federal Probe In Lynch Case Under Study

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
30a Wed. 6-18-47

Continual Investigation Has Been Underway Since Negro Killed

WASHINGTON, June 17.—(AP)—Justice Department officials said today they are considering federal prosecution of persons connected with mob violence during which Willie Earle, Greenville, S. C., Negro, lost his life in February. (gen.)

None of them would permit use of their names. One told a reporter the department has continued investigation of events leading to the death of Earle "steadily" since a jury acquitted the 26 men indicted in the lynching case.

Earle was lynched Feb. 17 after being arrested in the fatal stabbing of Cab Driver T. W. Brown on Feb. 15. Wed. 6-18-47

Oscar A. Doyle, Federal District Attorney for western South Carolina is here for conferences with justice officials. He declined to comment except to say "discussions which are continuing have included mention of the Greenville case." 30a

Justice department officials said they have received numerous requests to see if there has been violation of Federal law in the jury trial.

One official said many northern lawyers have asked the department to check on the Federal jurisdiction angle.

Another official said it may be quite possible that means will be sought by which to get the case before a Federal grand jury.

Justice officials said they are studying the case on the basis of the 14th amendment to the constitution. It states: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Wed. 6-18-47

They also are looking into possibilities there may have been violations of sections 51 and 52 of the United States code.

Section 51, Article 18, provides: "If two or more conspire to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right secured to him by the constitution or because of his having so exercised same, or if two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premise of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured, they shall be fined not more than $5,000 and imprisoned ont more than ten year. . ."

Lynched Body Held Worst Sight

Afro American
30a Baltimore Md.

GREENVILLE, S.C. — C. S. Franks, local undertaker, who prepared the mutilated body of Willie Earle, 23-year-old lynch victim, for burial, told the AFRO it was the worst sight he'd seen in 18 years in the business. "It was just as if he'd been run over by a train," said Mr. Franks, who has been in the funeral business since 1928, and has operated his own business since 1935.

C. S. Franks

Skin, Bones Cut Away

He recounted how lynchers had cut the neck of the victim from ear to ear and then used sharp instruments as though to cut away the skin and bones, leaving only the windpipe exposed.

He didn't have to tell how the South Carolina Nazis had gouged out the right eye, left the brains dangling and cut away the skin almost to the bones, because the mute evidence was there.

Layers of undertaker's plaster could not form a face or hide the mutilation. It was there in bold relief. Sat 3-1-47

Dixie Storm Troops Worse Than Hitler's

Afro-American
30a Sat. 3-1-47

By BETTYE M. PHILLIPS

Baltimore, Md. (gen.)

COLUMBIA, S.C.—Don't let anybody tell you about the atrocities of the Nazi gangsters during World War II. America's storm troopers are just as bad and perhaps worse.

The only difference is that during the war when Hitler's cohorts butchered Jews and American airmen, we called them fascists. Over here, they're lynchers.

But they're just as atrocious and mean!

Harmless Epileptic

Willie Earle, 23-year-old harmless epileptic who was riddled with bullets and then butchered by a group of white taxi drivers in nearby Pickens last week because he was "suspected" of killing a white taxi driver, is a case in point.

Not only did the South Carolina Nazis riddle his face and body with bullets at close range, they used knives or other sharp instruments to slash the neck from ear to ear, to gouge out the "guts" in an effort to reach the heart, pulled the right eye from its socket, and squashed out the brains before they left him on the road to die.

Ungrateful Dixie

If this isn't bad enough, add to the picture the fact that two of young Earle's brothers are serving their country in the U.S. Navy, one in the Pacific, and you get an idea how America treats the family of the men who serve her, especially in Dixie. Sat. 3-1-47

Leroy Earle, 21, has been with the Navy three years and is at present stationed at Norfolk, Va. James Sidney, 19, has been on duty in the Pacific area for over a year.

There are some who believe the lynching, first in the U.S. in 1947, was planned by his political enemies to embarrass the State's new governor, J. Strom Thurmond, former Circuit Court judge, who assumed office less than a month ago.

He succeeded Ramson J. Williams.

SOUTH CAROLINA

New Twist

30a (Pr.) Time
3-3-47-mon. Chicago, Ill.

Unlike most lynch mobs, the men who beat and killed Negro Willie Earle (TIME, Feb. 24) were not hard to unmask. Most of them wore cab drivers' caps; several of their automobiles were taxis. They were almost surely from Greenville, where Willie Earle had been arrested after the murder of a cab driver ten days ago. 30a

Starting from there, police and the FBI moved fast. Two clues turned up: 1) the burnt stock of a shotgun, jammed in the flue of a Yellow Cab office in Greenville; 2) blood-stained seat cushions from a taxi. Drivers were rounded up, began to talk, implicated still more. Time 3-3-47-mon.

By this week 26 had admitted participation in the lynching, 31 were charged with a blanket warrant for murder. Taking no chances, Greenville's sheriff clapped 30 of them into jail, kept a cell ready for the 31st. Bail was set at $2,500. Among the 31, but not yet identified, police were sure they had the actual trigger man. 3-3-47

It was a new twist to an old crime. South Carolina—and the rest of the U.S.—would watch with interest to see what, if anything, happened next. mon.

Another Victim

S.C. 30a
Richmond, Va.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

I have read thousands of words concerning the brutal lynching of Willie Earle and how terrible his mother must feel. This was deplorable, of course. But I have read little about the brutal stabbing of the white cab driver. [illegible]

I wonder how his mother feels. But maybe to discuss that would be inciting racial discord.

Hampton. L. C. McCARTY.

Willie Earle's Mother to Sue For Half Million

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.
30a S.C. (gen.)

Mrs. Tessie Earle, mother of Willie Earle, South Carolina lynch victim will sue the 28 acquitted lynchers for $250,000, and the city of Greenville for another $250,000 for failing to protect him while he was under arrest. Thur. 5-29-47

This was revealed Tuesday night at a Madison Square Garden affair attended by 3,000. Mrs. Earle was introduced by Herbert C. Cook, chairman of the National Negro Day Committee. Archbald Palmer, attorney, announced the suits backstage.

News & Courier Charleston, S.C.

Advertising Value of Grief

Tues. 5-27-47
30a

Indefensible as was the murder of negro Willie Earle by a gang in Greenville (of the members of it The News and Courier has not ascertained the names), it is to be said that the "National Negro Day Committee" of New York would have been deprived of the advertising value of the dead man's mother as an exhibit in a Madison Square Garden meeting had the man not been slain. Tues. 5-27-47 The money to be raised by the meeting will be distributed to the "Harlem Negro College fund" and for other benevolent objects. The woman too is to receive a part of the revenues, and it should be big and handsome. Whether or not any of the blood-stained garments of the victim will be shown is not said in the dispatch from New York, a city which the visiting woman describes as "God's country". The exhibit in person of a grief-stricken woman at an assemby of uplifters may be the chief factor in gathering the shekels for the benevolent objects. Indirectly and without benevolent intent the slayers of the negro have thus contributed to the benevolences of some of the New Yorkers. These people are shrewd and swift estimators of publicity values.

7510

7511

Victim Taken From Jail By 35 Armed Men

(30a) S.C.

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Bullet Riddled Body Left Lying On County Road

Sat. 2-22-47

(Special to The Defender)

PICKENS, S. C.—An armed mob of 35 white men took a Negro from the jail here Monday and murdered him somewhere between Pickens and Greenville.

The lynch victim was 35-year-old Willie Earle, suspect in an assault and robbery case. His body was found on a road near here, riddled with shotgun and stab wounds.

Earle had been held as a suspect in the assault and robbery of a Greenville, S. C., taxi driver, white, who was found unconscious in his cab last Saturday night. The driver, T. W. Brown, is in a Greenville hospital with two wounds in his chest, and one in his mouth. He was robbed of $40.00.

Jailer Ed Gilstrap said the mob entered the jail, disarmed and overpowered him, and removed Earle from his cell about 5 a.m. Gilstrap said the mob members were armed with shotguns, and that they sped away in cars while he gave the alarm to the sheriff.

Gov. J. Strom in Columbia Monday said he was appalled at the lynching. He ordered Joel Townsend, chief of the state constabulary, to investigate the crime immediately.

Sat. 2-22-47

According to records at Tuskegee Institute, Ala., this was the first lynching in the United States in 1947. It is the first lynching in South Carolina since Feb. 15, 1941.

There were six lynchings in the nation last year, all below the Mason and Dixon Line.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR SON

(30a) S.C. (Trial)

Afro American

Baltimore, Md.

Study this face. It is the countenance of the mother whose son, Willie Earle, was mutilated by a South Carolina mob last February. Here is the face of an honest, hard-working woman, the type that has been associated with the development of America and the Southland for more than a century.

Mrs. Earle

This is the face of a God-fearing woman whose back has been bent over the tub, whose hands have kneaded dough, whose feet have trudged the South Carolina mud to reach her modest home, whose watchful eyes and tender heart have been the source of protection of the same whites who robbed her of her son.

We ask you to study this mother's face and look beyond the drooping lip and deep-set line that anguish has written there, and see the real beauty of motherhood.

Read in her eyes the helpless query, "Why should my boy have been lynched in a land of freedom and democracy?"

Read there the look of contempt and derision that seems to say, "How can you talk of democracy when you lynch my boy while his brothers are still serving with the Navy in the Pacific and at home?"

Baltimore, Md.

Study this mother's face and read there the hopeless expression, the look of resignation to the forces of racial hatred and prejudice which she can neither understand nor fathom. She realizes only that these forces do exist and that she cannot help but ask God why He gave her the power to bring children into the world to face such diabolical odds.

Study this mother's face, her firm chin, her fighting eyes and read there a determination which seems to say, "I will not give up, I will fight on." Read there the unspoken command to other mothers of color to unite.

"This is my boy," she says, "but it could have been your boy, because the same brutality which killed mine may some day ensnare yours."

Cut out this picture and send it to Governor J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina; to U.S. Attorney General Tom Clark and to President Truman, and ask them to study this mother's face.

At present, a Greenville, S.C., County jury is listening to evidence that 31 white taxi drivers had a hand in this brutal lynching. Send them a copy of this picture.

Ask them all whether they can withstand the look of reproof in this mother's face. Sat. 3-29-47

SOUTH CAROLINA

Time 3-3-47

(30a)

Chicago, Ill.

1947

2-24-47

By the Clock

The pattern was as old as the South. Just before 5 a.m. the armed men arrived at the jail in Pickens (pop. 2,866). Shotguns leveled, they demanded 25-year-old Negro Willie Earle, suspected of robbing and killing a Greenville taxi driver. An hour and 45 minutes later, the sheriff was called to identify the slashed and blasted body of Willie Earle. It was the South's first lynching this year; the first in South Carolina since 1941.

Confessed Lynch Perpetrators

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

The alleged confessions of 23 of the 35 or more white men, said to have been parties to the brutal lynching of 23 year-old Willie Earle, in Pickens' County, S. C. early last Monday, will make it extremely difficult and embarrassing to Govermental authorities to attempt anything less than a thorough probing into the minutest details in order to mete out suitable punishment to the guilty ones. For as cruel and as unprecedented as the now celebrated Walton County Lynchings have come to be, the Pickens' County lynching provides a better starting point for the legal authorities, because unlike in Walton County, they have the alleged confessions of the perpetrators. 30a) S.C. (Indict)

The speed with which law enforcement authorities scoured the hills in and around the vicinity to establish the identity of those said to have signed confessions, is indicative of their determination to bring the guilty ones to justice and to insist upon a government of law, instead of mob rule. Tues. 2-25-47

Whether the victim was guilty of the accused crime, is difficult to say, since the lynchers intervened and defeated the ends of justice. We deplore, the act said to be committed by him as much as members of the family of the cab driver, whose life he is said to have taken. But we contend that the law, not the lynchers, should have determined that. Mob violence, whether in Michigan or in Mississippi, must be smitten with all the might and mien at the command of law abiding elements.

WHITE PRESS CLAMORS FOR PUNISHMENT OF MURDERERS

Fri 3-21-47

30a (Indictment)

Greenville, S. C. (ANP)—The sequel to South Carolina's bid for notoriety got off to a good start here last week when the federal grand jury returned true bill against 31 Pickens county taxi-cab drivers for complicity in the torture-lynching Feb. 17 of 24-year-old Willie Earle.

Spotlight of the probe was thrown on K. Carlos Herd, Sr., 45-year-old driver for the Blue Bird Cab company, who was picked out by most of the confessed mob members as the actual slayer of the victim.

Earlier a coroner's jury had found that Earle met his death "from a shotgun wound inflicted by party or parties of a mob." The hapless man was being held as a suspect at Pickens county jail in the knife killing of T. W. Brown, local white cabbie. Early in the morning of Feb. 17, a mob visited the jail, ordered Jailer J. Ed Gilstrap to turn the prisoner over to them. They took him out by the Bramlett road, four miles from here, and about two hours later, Earle's body was found lying beside the highway with shotgun and knife wounds.

Local papers immediately took up the cry of condemnation against this atrocity act. Recalling that the county had not had a lynching in 35 years, they demanded the immediate apprehension of the lynchers and the meting out of severe punishment to them.

A granddaughter of Jailer Gilstrap aided law enforcement officials in uncovering the murderers. She testified that she had noticed a number of cabs in front of the jail that morning. Gilstrap added to this by saying that some of the men wore cab driver's caps. 3-21-47

Twenty six of the 31 hackies confessed to participation in the lynching, most of them naming Herd as the one who fired the fatal shot. Several said that the idea for the lynching came up at an assembly of drivers in the Yellow Cab company office, following a few rounds of drinks. A few denied knowing what it was all about until they reached the jail house. Others declared that they did not go to the scene of the crime, or took no active part, either in questioning, beating or shooting the unfortunate man.

Concensus of the testimony was that Herd and another driver, Woodrow Wilson Clardy, were the ringleaders of the plot. A bunch of drivers were asked to go to Pickens to wring a confession out of "that nigger." Reaching the jail, Herd is said to have talked to the jailer "and I recall that he had previously stated that he would do the talking because he knew all of the officials," said Marvin Henry Fleming, Blue Bird cabbie. "Herd had also previously stated that he was well known at Pickens where he was born and raised.

After getting the prisoner and hustling him into a cab driven by Clardy, the procession proceeded to a stopping place near the Old Easly bridge, where a cabbie named Stokes was reported to have said that he was a former deputy sheriff "and knew how to get a confession from a Negro."

Most of the stories agree that Earle was pulled out of the lead car, and was beaten with the butt end of the shotgun. Several told of hearing the man cry "Lord you done killed me." They also said that Herd aimed the single shotgun toward the ground "in the direction of where I judge the Negro was laying and pulled the trigger."

Prior to this Stokes is said to have pulled out a pocket knife and asked, "before you kill him, I want to put the same scars on him that he put on Brown." Clardy replied to this by saying, "Get him out of my car if you're going to kill him." With that the group started out for the Bramhill road spot where they administered the coup de grace to the tortured man.

Clardy and Scott refused to make a statement in their behalf, but Herd came forward with a denial of having a gun. He said that "somebody fired a gun two or three times. I don't know who fired the gun. I didn't have a gun, and I don't know whether the shots hit the Negro or not. When I seen they were going to kill the Negro, I just turned around, because I did not want to see it happen."

The gun was procured by Duran Garrett Keenan, 24, a Commercial Cab company driver, who said that he called up a friend and told him that "we are going rabbit hunting in Georgia and I want to borrow your shotgun."

Pickens County's last lynching was in 1912 when Brooks Gordon was killed by a posse for shooting a young white girl with birdshot allegedly trying to molest her. The girl was not seriously wounded, however. Gordon was captured by the sheriff, and was taken away by a mob, and hanged from the first tree that could be found.

$2,000 Contributed. For 31 Defendants In Earle Slaying

News and Courier Sat 3-15-47 30a Charleston, S.C.

GREENVILLE, March 14. (AP): Public contributions for the defense of 31 Greenville men indicted for the lynch slaying of Willie Earle, 24-year-old negro, were reported today to have reached aproximately $2,000.

The figure was given by J. David Roberson, who identified himself as chairman of the fund raising committee.

Contributions have been deposited in small jars and boxes placed in some 150 cafes and other business establishments throughout the city and county, Roberson said.

Most of the containers are labeled simply "taxi drivers' defense". Twenty-seven of the indicted men were Greenville cab drivers.

Earle was shot and stabbed to death February 17. He had been arrested as a suspect in the fatal stabbing and robbery of a taxi driver.

Reveal Jailer's Granddaughter Spotted Killers

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. 30a S.C.

31 Indicted In Torture-Murder In Pickens Area

Sun. 3-16-47

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—The sequel to South Carolina's bid for notoriety got off to a good start here last week when the federal grand jury returned true bill against 31 Pickens county taxi-cab drivers for complicity in the torture-lynching Feb. 17 of 24-year-old Willie Earle.

Spotlight of the probe was thrown on R. Carlos Herd, Sr., 45-year-old driver for the Blue Bird Cab company, who was picked out by most of the confessed mob members as the actual slayer of the victim. Sun. 3-16-47

Earlier a coroner's jury had found that Earle met his death "from a shotgun wound inflicted by party or parties of a mob." The hapless man was being held as a suspect at Pickens county jail in the knife killing of T. W. Brown, 48, local white cabbie. Early in the morning of Feb. 17, a mob visited the jail, ordered Jailer J. Ed Gilstrap to turn the prisoner over to them. They took him out by the Bramlett road, four miles from here, and about two hours later, Earle's body was found lying beside the highway with shotgun and knife wounds. Atlanta, Ga.

PRESS CRY

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RING LEADERS SPOTTED

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Daily World 3-16-47

PLACES SCARS

Prior to this, Stokes is said to have pulled out a pocket knife and asked, "before you kill him, I want to put the same scars on him that he put on Brown." Clardy replied to this by saying, "Get him out of my car if you're going to kill him." With that the group started out for the Bramhill road spot where they administered the coup de grace to the tortured man.

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I don't know whether the shots hit the Negro or not. When I seen they were going to kill the Negro, I just turned around, because I did not want to see it happen." 3/6-47

The gun was procured by Duran Garrett Keenan, 24, a Commercial Cab company driver, who said that he called up a friend and told him that "we are going rabbit hunting in Georgia and I want to borrow your shotgun." 30a

Atlanta, Ga.

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$2,500 Bail For Lynching

Daily Worker

Mon 3-6-47

GREENVILLE, S. C., March 5 (UP).—A South Carolina grand jury will be asked next week to return murder indictments against 31 men charged with lynching a Negro, it was announced today as a signed statement from one of the mobsters identified the ringleader.

New York, N.Y.

30a

R. C. Herd, a taxicab dispatcher, was accused by a Greenville cab driver, H. T. Fleming, of taking charge of the mob that pulled Willie Earle from the Pickens County Jail Feb. 17 and killed him. Fleming said that Herd blasted the Negro to death with a shotgun charge.

Herd and the other men—mostly cab drivers—are out of jail on $2,500 bonds pending the outcome of grand jury action. All are charged with murder.

Earle Slaying Case to Be Called Monday

The News and Courier

30a

Charleston, S.C.

GREENVILLE, May 3. (AP): The case of 31 Greenville men indicted for murder as a result of the lynching of a young negro near here last February 17 will be called in court of general sessions Monday for the purpose of setting a trial date.

Interested attorneys indicated a belief that the trial might get under way later in the week, possibly on Thursday. Sun.

Meantime, the defendants, the majority of them Greenville taxi drivers, remained free under bonds of $2,500 each. 5-4-47

They were indicated by the Greenville county grand jury early in March in connection with the fatal beating and shooting of Willie Earle, 24, on a country road this side of the Pickens county line.

At an inquest into Earle's death, Solicitor Robert T. Ashmore read into the record statements from 26 of them, admitting being members of the unmasked mob which took the negro from the Pickens county jail.

A number of the statements named R. Carlos Hurd, Sr., 48-year-old dispatcher for a cab company, as the trigger man. Statements of the defendants varied as to the number of shots fired into Earle's body but an FBI account of the investigation said there were three.

Earle was held in jail as a suspect in the robbery and stabbing of T. W. Brown, a middle-aged Greenville taxi driver. Brown died of his wounds a few hours after the negro's dead body was found beside the road.

Jailer J. Ed Gilstrap, of Pickens reported that an unmasked mob, some of whose members were wearing taxi driver's caps, forced its way in the jail early on the morning of February 17, and took Earle away with them. A short time later his beaten and shot body was discovered as the result of an anonymous tip telephoned to a negro undertaker.

Law enforcement agencies—government, state, county and city—swung into action immediately. Governor Thurmond sent constables and highway patrolmen to help. The FBI sent agents from its Charlotte office. 5-4-47

Within four days, Sheriff Bearden announced the roundup was complete with the arrest of the 31 defendants. Scores of other persons had been questioned and released.

The governor directed Attorney General John M. Daniel to assist Solicitor Robert T. Ashmore in every way possible with the prosecution. Solicitor Sam R. Watt of the Spartanburg circuit was assigned to help work up the case.

The coroner's jury which held an inquest into Earle's death returned a verdict that he was the victim of a mob but it mentioned no names of suspects in its finding.

Solicitor Ashmore presented the case to the grand jury as one group indictment instead of handing out separate bills for each defendant.

A true bill on four counts was returned. All defendants were indicted on charges of murder, conspiracy to commit murder, accessory before the fact, and accessory after the fact.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

MOTHER OF A LYNCH VICTIM—Mrs. Tessie Earle, of Greenville, S. C., the 38-year-old mother of lynch victim Willie Earle, tells a New York press conference details of the tragic death of her son at the hands of a white mob. The National Negro Day Committee arranged and financed Mrs. Earle's trip to Gotham in order that she might appear on a program sponsored by the committee at Madison Square Garden May 27. The jury verdict of 'Not Guilty' against the mobsters shocked the nation, white and colored alike, into vehement press protest. Sat. 6-7-47

30a 1947 South Carolina (Trial)

7513

5 Lynchers Pin Fatal Shot on Hurd

(Trial)

By Harry Raymond 30a

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 15.—Special State Solicitor Sam R. Watt, standing straight as a rifle ramrod in a crowded, tense courtroom, today welded a stout chain of evidence around taxicab dispatcher Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, Sr., charged with being the executioner in the lynch mob slaying of Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro.

Fifteen signed confessions by taxi drivers who said they took part in the lynching Feb. 17 placed the bespectacled 45-year-old Hurd, shotgun in hand, as the head of the rampaging mob. Five drivers named Hurd as the man who tore off half of Earle's head with blasts from his gun.

Hurd sat sullenly behind his lawyer with 30 co-defendants charged with murder. His eyes were downcast as he heard Solicitor Watt read statements to an all-white jury, recounting how he fired twice into the head of the prostrate, beaten Negro, bleeding from five previously delivered knife wounds.

By his own signed statement, Duran G. Keenan, 24-year-old cabby, was also in the lynch mob with a 16-gauge double-barrel shotgun in his hands.

"I loaded my shotgun and carried it to the jail," Keenan was quoted as saying. He told how Hurd guarded the jail hall and stairway for five minutes while other cabbies went upstairs and dragged Earle from a cell.

STATEMENTS

Earle was lodged in the Pickens County jail charged with stabbing T. W. Brown, cab driver, who died from wounds after the lynching.

A statement by George McFall, another defendant, said he heard the Negro complain about a cut over his left eye where Earle said Brown hit him.

A statement by defendant Franklin D. Shepherd revealed Hurd **"jerked the Negro down the jail steps"** and how **"everybody wanted to kill Earle."**

Defendant Jeremiah C. McNeely told in his statement how defendant Paul F. Griggs beat the Negro with his fists before Hurd fired the shots and left the mangled body in the crusted frost of lonely Bramlett Road.

HURD'S STATEMENT

Defendant Keenan described how the white men "ganged up" behind the Negro. One was quoted as telling Earle just before he was put to death that he should "make it right with the man above."

Twenty-six of the 31 white men on trial for the lynching have made statements admitting they were in the mob. Solicitor Watt expects to conclude introduction of the statements tomorrow.

A statement by Hurd to FBI agent Tullis D. Easterling admitted he was on the scene of the lynching. But he denied firing the shots, stating he turned his head when the shooting took place "because I didn't want to see it."

Hurd admitted hearing Ernie Stokes, a defendant, tell Earle the mob was going to kill him.

"The crowd yelled 'that's enough,'" said the Hurd statement. "They dragged him (Earle) out and everybody beat him."

Only once did Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., have to call for order in the crowded courtroom. It was during an outburst of laughter when FBI agent Easterling said defendant McFall refused to talk to him when the former told McFall he was from Alabama.

NEGRO SPECTATORS

More than 100 Negro spectators jammed into the courtroom's Jimcrow gallery. A Negro reporter for the **Pittsburgh Courier** sat in the Jimcrow section away from the white newspapermen. Judge Martin ruled there should be no discrimination against the Negro press. But an unwritten agreement on the part of state attorneys shunted the **Courier** man to the gallery.

Camera and newsreel men were denied the right to make pictures in the courthouse. A defendant, a prisoner under guard, told a **Life** photographer he would "come up North and get you" if he took a picture. A deputy guarding the prisoner joined in the harassment of the photographer. 30a S.C. (Trial)

JUDGE MARTIN
Presides at Trial

Daily Worker

The FBI men stated they were called in on the case to determine if there were any violations of federal civil rights statutes. Asked if he had discovered any such violations, FBI agent J. M. Cole said it was up to the attorney general to decide that, there have been no federal indictments.

Defense attorney Thoms A. Wofford spent considerable time today trying to show the jury that deputy sheriff D. H. Fowler wrung confessions from defendants by telling them if they failed to make statements the FBI men would take them **"up North"** and **"try them before a jury, half n - - - - r and half white."**

Sheriff Fowler flatly denied such statements. City detective B. L. Ashmore denied a defense charge that he told defendant McFall "the Negro got what he deserved" and that if he were not an officer he would have joined the lynch mob. Fw 5-16-47

CAROLINA MASS LYNCH TRIAL PROMPTED BY PUBLIC WRATH

Times, New York, N.Y.

30a S.C.

Greenville's Leading White Citizens Back Swift Action by Police

Sun 5-11-47

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 10—The biggest lynching trial in the history of the South is scheduled to get under way in the County Court Building here Monday, with thirty-one white men charged with the mob murder of a Negro.

National interest is expected to center on the outcome of this case in which a State of the deep South—the very State that set the pattern in Dixie for the recent white primary legislation aimed at excluding Negroes from franchise privileges—moved with record swiftness to arrest and indict white men who had taken the law into their own hands.

Suspect Arrested

On Sunday, Feb. 16, Willie Earle, 24 years old, was arrested in neighboring Pickens County as a suspect in the stabbing and robbery of T. W. Brown, a white taxicab driver from Greenville. Police assert that they found Earle with bloodstained clothing and a bloodstained knife.

Early the next morning an unmasked mob, several of them wearing taxi-drivers' caps, forcibly took Earle from the jail to a near-by country road, where they mutilated him with a knife and fired three shotgun bursts into his body. A few hours after Earle's body was found the taxi driver, T. W. Brown, died of his wounds.

Almost at once the local newspapers began to clamor for swift action against the mob-killers.

The facts clearly indicate that it was the vocal insistence of responsible and leading white citizens of the community and the State which prompted law enforcement agencies to dispose of the case with such dispatch and diligence.

Governor Acts

Gov. J. Strom Thurmond, a veteran of the second World War, showed interest in the case from the beginning. He sent a detachment of the State constabulary to work with agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, county and city police. He also brought about the assignment of Solicitor Sam R. Watt of Spartanburg to aid the prosecution. Mr. Watt last year convicted 471 of the 473 persons he brought to trial.

Four days after the crime the thirty-one defendants were rounded up. All but three of them are local taxicab drivers. Police reported that twenty-six of them made statements admitting their presence at the lynching and indicating who is alleged to have fired the death weapon. Sun 5-11-47

Defendants Plead Innocent In Carolina Lynching Case

30a S.C. (Trial)

Advertiser

Montgomery, Alabama

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 12.—(AP)—All the defendants entered pleas of innocent today as 31 men, including 28 Greenville taxi drivers, were arraigned on charges of murder in the lynching of a 24-year-old Negro, Willie Earle.

Willie Earle was taken from the Pickens County jail before dawn last February 17 by a quiet, armed mob, and less than two hours afterward his shot and knife-punctured body was found on a roadside in Greenville County. The 31 men arraigned today are accused of having been members of that mob and with having planned the killing.

In the crowded, dingy, little courtroom today sat the wives of several defendants—poker-faced and dry-eyed, but listening intently to preliminary procedures. Several carried babies in their arms.

Tues 5-13-47

Most of the morning session of court was taken up with arguments of motions and by the formal arraignment. Selection of a jury followed the arraignment.

The court recessed shortly after 4 p.m., and a special venire of 36 was ordered to report at 8:30 a.m. (CST) tomorrow. Nine jurors were selected today as the defense used six of its 20 challenges, the state used five of its 10, and the judge ordered six excused.

Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., overruled defense motions that counts charging accessory before the fact against all but R. Carlos Hurd, Sr., be quashed. He also overruled a defense motion that counts of conspiracy to commit murder be quashed. The state has charged that Hurd was the trigger man who sent a shotgun volley into the body of the cringing Negro as he stood bloody and bruised from knife wounds and fist blows on the roadside.

The Negro had been jailed in Pickens County by officers investigating the stabbing of a Greenville cab driver, T. W. Brown, who later died.

CONFESSIONS MARK OPENING OF 31-CABBIE LYNCH TRIAL

Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

30a

Thurs. 5-15-47

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 14—(UP)—A defendant's confession, describing a pre-dawn rendezvous at the Greenville Yellow Cab office "to go get the Negro who cut Mr. Brown," was read Tuesday as testimony began in the mass trial of 31 men charged with lynching Willie Earle.

The statement was signed by Willie Eugene Bishop, a 27-year-old cab driver with a seventh grade education who admitted he went to the cab office with the intention of participating in the lynching, but did not get to the execution scene in time.

It was the first to be read of the 26 statements made by defendants on trial for murder in the slaying of Earle last Feb. 16. The Negro was abducted from the jail in adjoining Pickens County, and his body, ripped by a knife and blaste by a shotgun, was found a few hours later in Greenville County.

The obvious motive of the lynching was retaliation for the critical hounding of Greenville Cabbie W. T. Brown, of Greenville, who followed Earle in deafh by a few hours.

While a crowd of 500 including the shirt-sleeved defendants packed tightly in the small courtroom, listened intently, Bishop's statement was entered as evidence. It described how the mob gathered at the Yellow Cab office on Greenville's West Court Street in sight of the Courthouse.

Bishop said that another defendant, W. D. Oakley, 58, a cafe owner across the street from the cab office, had asked to be notified when "the boys went out to get the Negro that cut Mr. Brown," so he could go along. Bishop also named 10 other defendants as members of the caravan that started for the Pickens jail.

Bishop added that his car got lost from the caravan, and he never actually saw the Negro; but "I went to Pickens for the purpose of getting the Negro and killing him."

Bishop's statement said that one car in the caravan had a flat tire; and two chaingang guards, Earl Porter and L. H. Crowe, were called to the stand to identify Defendant Paul F. Griggs, 22, as the man who had come to claim the car shortly after the lynching.

White-haired Jailer Ed Gilstrap testified in a quavering voice as to how the lynch mob came to his jail in Pickens, and "asked me if I had a Negro there for stabbing a taxi driver; and said 'we've some after him.'

"I knew they meant business," said the 60-year-old, heavy set jailer. "They had a shotgun."

He dared not resist them, he said, so he led the mob upstairs where Earle was held behind four locked doors. Two of the men went into the cell and pulled Earle out, Gilstrap said; and he himself remained behind to relock the doors so he did not see the lynchers leave.

Constitution

Gilstrap said he could not identify any of the mob, but some wore taxi-driver caps. Gilstrap's close-cut head showed two recent scars where he was wounded two weeks ago during an attempted jail break. He killed one of the would-be escapers.

Atlanta, Ga.

During Tuesday's testimony the defendants mostly chewed gum and listened impassively. Many had their wives sitting next to them. Men and women were shabbily dressed. One defendant's wife was noticeably pregnant. Defendant John C. Coy, 25-year-old cabbie, was so fat his flesh overlapped the arms of his chair. He perspired copiously.

The defendants—28 of them Greenville taxicab drivers—nervously listened to the reading of a six-page general indictment against them. It charged that they dragged Wille Earle from his Pickens County jail cell the night of Feb. 16; cut and shot him to death in reprisal for the alleged murder of a fellow cab driver, and then dumped his butchered body into a roadside ditch near a hog slaughtering pen.

Constitution

Most of the men fidgeted in their seats as the charges were read. But one of the defendants, dressed in mismatched trousers and shirt, sat quietly. His chubby, blonde baby daughter was curled in his lap asleep.

A majority of the defendants had turned State's evidence before Tuesday's trial, sigfning confessions to their part in the lynching. They hoped the act would get them off with lighter sentences if the State won convictions.

But those confessions had resulted in flat first degree murder charges against one of their number—thin-lipped, heavy-set Roosevelt C. Hurd, 45.

Hurd was accused of being the "trigger man" of the lynch party. The shotgun that finished Willie Earle was held so close to his head that twigs on overhanging bushes were snapped off by the scattering blast of shot. A wad from the gun was lying at the rim of the pool of blood.

Hurd's cool brown eyes stared straight ahead as the State called its first witness, Dr. J. I. Converse, the county physician.

Sol. Robert Ashemore asked if he had examined Earle's body after it was found sprawled in a pool of blood, about 7 a. m. on Feb. 17.

"I did," the physician replied.

"Tell the jury what you found."

The tense audience of some 300 white persons and 200 Negroes leaned forward so as not to miss a word of Converse's testimony.

He said Earle had been stabbed five times—in the chest, stomach, forehead, neck and right thigh. But none of these five knife wounds, he said, were sufficient to have caused death. It was the shotgun blast, he testified, which entered the right temple and ripped through the left side of his neck which ended the Negro's life.

Thurs. 5-15-47

Lynch Mobsters Guzzled Whiskey While Making Plans, Court Is Told

Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.

30a (Trial)

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 16—(UP)—Brutal mobsters, several of them illiterate, guzzled whiskey while mapping plans for the savage lynching of Willie Earle, who was beaten so brutally that a gun was broken on his head, testimony in the mass trial of 31 men charged with murder disclosed today.

The prosecution, nearing the end of its case against 26 Greenville taxicab drivers and five other men, introduced the breech catch from an ugly .16 gauge shotgun used to shoot the Negro, who had already been clubbed and stabbed.

The State charged that the gun was pounded over the Negro's head with such force that the catch was knocked off. It was turned over to police after the lynching by Hendrix Rector, who had it hidden in a chimney flue at his taxicab stand.

A statement by Defendant Jessie Lee Sammons, read to the court, said that Rector turned purple with rage when he found that his gun was broken and muttered:

"Some — — — broke my gun."

By JANE NOLAND.

A weary 12-man jury that had been locked up since Monday on the South's first mass-lynch trial heard the State introduce additional evidence, purporting to show how the lynch mob mapped its plans down to the last minute detail. Then, the State said, it swept down upon Pickens County Jail, snatched the Negro from his cell and hauled him off to be slain.

Prosecuting Atty. Robert Ashemore had centered his drive for convictions on the sworn confessions from all but five of the defendants. They told how Earle was pulled down the jail steps, thrown into a waiting taxicab and carried to the scene of the lynching near town.

Albert E. Sims, 23-year-old cabbie who went along on his first lynching, said in a statement that he remained at the wheel of his cab when the mob went to the jail for the Negro.

"They said for someone to stay in each cab in case we had to get away in a hurry," his deposition said.

Atlanta, Ga.

Most of the confessions have identified Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, 45, mustached, burly taxicab dispatcher, as ringleader of the mob and the "trigger man" who put Earle to death.

Sat 5-17-47

7514

Mass Lynch Trial Under Way in S. C.

Atlanta, Ga.

Constitution 5-14-47

30a

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 13—(AP)—South Carolina, where Negroes are not permitted to vote in the decisive Democratic primaries and where "white supremacy" is sometimes a political campaign cry, began an unprecedented mass trial Tuesday of 31 white men on charges of lynching a young Negro.

An all-white male jury was seated shortly before noon to hear the State's case against 28 taxi drivers and three businessmen of Greenville, accused of the Feb. 17 pre-dawn abduction of 24-year-old Willie Earle from a Pickens County jail and his later slaying on a quiet country road across from a slaughter house near here. Earle was held on suspicion in connection with the stabbing of T. W. Brown, local taxi driver, who later died.

Defense Atty. Tom Wofford announced he would contest the admission into State's evidence of statements by some of the defendants. He said he understood the prosecution would rely upon the testimony of officers as to the alleged statements.

J. Robert Martin, Jr., 37-year-old Judge, refused a motion by Wofford that the prosecuting witnesses be segregated.

The first witness, Dr. J. T. Converse, County Physician, testified Earle was killed by a shotgun wound in the head. He said none of the five stab wounds on his body would have caused death. He told the jury he could not be certain whether the Negro had been shot more than once.

Never before have as many as 31 white men been brought into court here for an offense against a Negro. Twenty-six of the defendants admitted in statements introduced at a coroner's inquest participation in varying degrees. The Pickens jailor said some of the unmasked mob which took his prisoner wore taxi drivers' caps. This set off an intensive four-day roundup, which resulted in the arrest of the 31 men.

Nine men were selected Monday and the jury was completed Tuesday morning with the acceptance of three others. Eight textile workers—J. M. Vermillion, John L. McDowell, J. T. Hall, C. C. Owens, James L. Brown, W. B. Calloway, H. J. Simmons and W. W. Harvey; two salesmen—J. R. Rhodes and A. H. McMahan; a shipping clerk, Hugh Anderson, and a farmer, J. T. Edwards, comprise the jury. The alternate juror is James R. Smith. 5-14-47

The hot and dingy Circuit Court room was crowded with spectators Tuesday with the balcony for Negroes filled. The cream-colored brick courthouse is on the main street of this textile center of 50,000, some 300 feet from the taxi stand where the defendants are alleged to have gathered in the early morning hours and planned Earle's lynching.

New Panel Is Called For Lynch Case Jury

The News

30a

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 13—(AP)—Thirty-six members of a special jury panel were ordered into Circuit Court today in an attempt to select the final three jurors for the trial of 31 defendants in the lynching of 24-year-old Willie Earle, a Negro. Birmingham, Ala.

Nine white men—seven textile workers, a shipping clerk and a farmer—who swore they have no objection to capital punishment, were accepted for jury duty yesterday. No Negroes were included.

Twenty-eight Greenville taxi drivers and three business men are charged with murder, conspiracy to commit murder, and with being accessories before and after the fact in Earle's death. News 5-13-47

The young Negro was being held in connection with the fatal stabbing and robbery of a middle-aged white Greenville taxi driver. He was spirited away from the nearby Pickens County jail early on Feb. 17, by an armed mob.

Several hours later his beaten, bullet-punctured body was found in a ditch beside a lonely country road. News, 5-13-47

The small courtroom was packed to overflowing when the case was called yesterday by Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr. A balcony reserved for Negroes was well filled.

TRIAL IS DELAYED IN MOB LYNCH CASE

New York Times

30a

Prosecutor, on Stand, Denies He Promised Postponement in South Carolina Court

Times 5-6-47

New York, N.Y.

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 5—Attempts to set a trial date for thirty-one white men accused of lynching a Negro developed a legal contretemps here today. The county prosecutro took the witness stand to defend himself against charges that he had led defense counsel to believe that a postponement could be obtained at this term of the court.

In a rare procedure in which he was examined by his own associate in the prosecution, the county solicitor at one stage of his testimony pleaded from the stand with a member of the defense counsel to corroborate the accuracy of his statements. This caused the trial judge to caution him to proceed with his testimony.

The indictment in what will be the biggest lynching trial ever held in the South charges thirty-one Greenville men, all but three of them local taxicab drivers, with the mob murder of Willie Earl, 24-year-old Negro, on Feb. 17 last.

The victim had been arrested the day before in neighboring Pickens County in connection with the stabbing and robbery of T. W. Brown, a Greenville taxi driver. At that time anti-Negro feeling had been running high because of reports that several white taxi drivers had been beaten and robbed by Negroes. New York Times

On the morning of Feb. 17 a mob of unmasked men, several said to be wearing taxi driver's caps, forced its way into the jail and took Earl to a near-by country road, where he was mutilated with a knife and three shotgun blasts were fired into his body. A few hours later the taxi driver, T. W. Brown, died in a hospital.

Suspects Quickly Seized

Within four days the defendants had been rounded up and it was reported that twenty-six had made statements in which they admitted being members of the lynching mob and indicated who had allegedly fired the death weapon.

The case was called at 11 A. M. today before Judge J. Robert Martin Jr. in the Greenville County Court House. The county solicitor, RobertT. Ashmore, asked that the trial be set for Thursday of this week. Times 5-6-47

Bradley Morrah Jr., representing thedefendant, John B. Marchant, described as the nephew of a wealthy textile mill owner, asked for a contiguance and a severance of the trial of his client on the ground that his defense was greatly dissimilar to that of all the other defendants.

Ben Bolt, a defense counsel, said he was not prepared to go to trial. He called two witnesses who said Mr. Ashmore had advised them to retain Mr. Bolt after they haad explained to the prosecutor that Mr. Bolt would enter the case only if he could get a delay at this time.

Mr. Ashmore then took the stand to state that he had never promised Mr. Bolt or the witnesses Mr. Bolt had called that he would acceede to a postponement.

Mr. Ashmore was questioned by Sam R. Watt, of near-by Spartanburg, assigned to aid the prosecution. Last year Mr. Watt convicted 471 of the 473 persons he brought to trial.

After ninety minutes of wrangling in which Mr. Bolt said if his motion was denied he would withdraw from the case and Mr. Morrah said he would invoke his "immunity" as a member of the State Assembly, Judge Martin announced that he would give his decision at 9 A. M. tomorrow.

New York, N.Y.

Incident at Court Door

While the courtroom action was under way, an incident took place at the steps of the building in which swift action by a group of white men relieved developing racial tension.

In the building's driveway a clothing firm's, truck, driven by Woodrow Drummonds, 26-year-old Negro, grazed fenders with an automobile driven by a State Highway patrolman.

It was reported that M. J. Floyd, a highway patrolman since Jan. 16, stepped out of the car and slapped Drummonds' face. Floyd is six feet tall and Drummonds is five feet four inches, weighing 139 pounds. Floyd is a Navy veteran with Pacific combat duty and Drummonds drove a truck in Germany for the Army.

A crowd gathered and whites and Negroes lined up on opposite curbs. Then ten white men walked up to Drummonds, expressed their sympathy for him and gave him their names to be called as witnesses in his behalf.

Richard J. Foster, a county juvenile judge and described as a leader of Greenville "liberals," immediately took Drummonds before Magistrate J. T. Stallings and swore out an assault and battery warrant against Patrolman Floyd. The crowd dispersed without incident. Times 5-6-47

Later in the afternoon Magistrate Stallings announced that Drummonds had returned to the court and had withdrawn his warrant action. There were reports that Drummonds had acted for the "community welfare" in an attempt to avoid any increase in racial tension.

LYNCH TRIAL DELAY REFUSED BY JUDGE

New York, N.Y.

Date Is Set for May 12, When 31 South Carolina Taxi Drivers Will Be Tried for Shooting

30a S.C.

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 6—Trial of thirty-one white men accused of lynching a Negro was set for May 12 by Judge J. Robert Martin Jr. today in a decision overruling all defense motions seeking delays, a severance of trial and even permission to withdraw from the case. Times 5-7-47

Yesterday two members of defense counsel had asked for a delay on the grounds they had not had time to prepare properly. One of the lawyers, Bradley Morrah Jr., also asked for a severance of his client's case, and the other attorney, Ben Bolt, said that if his motion for postponement was denied he would ask to withdraw from the case.

Mr. Bolt called two witnesses who testified that the prosecutor, County Solicitor Robert T. Ashmore, had told them it would be all right to retain Mr. Bolt as defense counsel after they had informed the prosecutor that Mr. Bolt would enter the case only if he could get a delay.

This led to Mr. Ashmore taking the witness stand and heatedly denying the implication that he had led defense counsel to believe that a postponement of trial could be obtained at the May term of court. Mr. Ashmore asked the court to set the trial date for May 8.

Judge Martin reserved decision on the defense application until today, when he announced that he would overrule all requests. He said that Mr. Bolt's request for a delay had failed to come within the rules of the court for such action and that testimony of the two witnesses had failed to disclose an "unequivocal agreement for a postponement. New York

Judge Martin also ruled that severance for Mr. Morrah's client on the ground that his defense was greatly dissimilar to that of the other defendants was unwarranted. The court then denied the request of Mr. Bolt to withdraw from the case, ruling that such permission was discretionary with the presiding judge.

The indictment in what will be the biggest lynching trial ever held in the South charges thirty-one Greenville men, all but three of them local taxicab drivers, with the mob murder of Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro, on Feb. 17 last.

The victim had been arrested the day before as a suspect in the stabbing and robbing of T. W. Brown, a Greenville taxi driver, who died in a local hospital a few hours after Earle's shotgun-riddled body was found on a nearby country road. A mob of unmasked men had forcibly taken Earle from the jail house. Times

Within four days the defendants had been rounded up and it was reported that twenty-six of them had made statements in which they admitted being members of the lynching mob and also indicating which of them had allegedly fired the death weapon.

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31 Go to Trial Today in Lynching; Case Is Unprecedented in South

Times

30a New York, N.Y.

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 11—The biggest lynching trial in the history of the South is scheduled to open here tomorrow morning with thirty-one white men placing their fate in the hands of neighboring farmers, mill workers and business men on charges of slaying a Negro. [illegible] 3-18-47

Selection of a jury to hear evidence unprecedented in the annals of Southern lynch cases, including twenty-six statements of record in which the defendants allegedly placed each other at the scene of the mob murder and generally agreed in naming the trigger man, is expected to provide one of the most unusual court room scenes ever witnessed in this region.

In the cream-colored brick courthouse on this textile city's main street, where traditionally white persons occupy the 200 seats on the ground floor and Negroes watch from balcony seats above, Southerners will be called upon to give reasons why they should not serve as arbiters of the charge that their neighbors took the law into their own hands.

In a court room that is a mere 300 feet from the taxi stand where they allegedly assembled in the early morning hours and made their plans to lynch the victim, the defendants will depend upon four Greenville lawyers to defeat the case prepared by the state on the basis of an investigation that had the open support of the Governor, many local residents and the clergy.

There are thirty-six veniremen on the first panel drawn for tomorrow's proceedings. It is expected that all of them will be queried at once as to their possible relationship by blood or marriage to any of the defendants, the opinions they may have formed in the case and their personal convictions as to capital punishment. 30a

If the twelve-member jury cannot be obtained from the first panel the prosecution is expected resort to what is known here as the five-mile box" procedure. This refers to the method of calling in all prospective jurors within five miles of the courthouse and stems from the ancient custom of calculating the time a horse and buggy required to reach the court while in session.

New York City

Women Cannot Be On Jury

Women cannot serve as jurors in South Carolina. Qualified negro voters are eligible, but it is said that none has sat here on a criminal case to date. It is most unlikely that any negro veniremen will be called in this case or chosen to serve. Times

The defense will have twenty peremptory challenges and the prosecution ten.

The trial will be before County Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., 37-year-old native of Greenville and former State Assemblyman. A week ago Judge Martin denied all defense motions seeking to postpone the trial, including a motion of defense counsel to withdraw from the case if a delay was not granted, and ruled that it must start Monday. Judge Martin is known here as one of the ablest jurists in the State.

The prosecution will be handled by Robert R. Ashmore, Greenville County Solicitor, assisted by Sam R. Watt, solicitor from Spartanburg, who was brought into the case at the direction of Governor Thurmond. Mr. Watt last year convicted 471 of the 473 persons he brought to trial.

The defendants are represented by John Bolt Culbertson, Thomas Wofford, Benjamin A. Bolt and Bradley Morrah Jr., the last-named appearing only for John B. Marchant, described as the nephew of a wealthy textile mill official and well known in local society.

The indictment says that on Sunday, Feb. 16, last, Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro, was arrested in neighboring Pickens County as a suspect in the stabbing and robbery of T. W. Brown, a white taxicab driver from Greenville.

Early the next morning an unmasked mob of men, several of them wearing taxi driver's caps, forcibly took Earle from the jailhouse to a country road, where they mutilated him with a knife and fired three shotgun bursts into his body. A few hours later the taxi driver, T. W. Brown, died of his wounds. [illegible] 3-13-47

There has been considerable subsurface tension in this community as the trial approached.

Judge Rules Against Counsel Delay Tactics

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

[illegible] 5-11-47

Points Out That "This Is No Ordinary Case"

30a

GREENVILLE, S. C. — (A N P) — Trial of 31 white taxi drivers charged with lynching Willie Earle 24-year-old slayer-suspect, on last February 17, begins in general sessions court here Monday.

Presiding Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., ruled that the case would not be held until the next court term.

Early last week, two of the four attorneys for the defense sought to have the case held over until the next court term. Prosecutor Robert T. Ashmore had asked that the trial be set for last Thursday.

One of the men, Attorney Benjamin A. Bolt, asked permission to withdraw as counsel, while Attorney Bradley Morrah Jr., argued that his duties as a member of the South Carolina house of representatives, now in session, had prevented him from giving the case the preparation it should have had and asked a delay.

In addition, Morrah pleaded that the case of his client, John Marchant, be separated from the others because of dissimilarity of defense.

Judge Martin, in his reply, declined to grant the withdrawal to Bolt, the separation of Marchant from the rest of the defendants and also rejected Morrah's plea for more time.

He held that in an ordinary case, a continuance is grantes when an attorney is a legislator, but "this is no ordinary case," he declared.

The defense contended that the delay was asked because they had been given the impression the case would not come up at this term and consequently were unprepared for trial. They produced two witnesses, a Mr. Craig and Luke Forrester, whom they described as members of a committee acting in obtaining attorneys, in support of this conteniton.

The witnesses told the court that they had obtained an impression from a talk with Ashmore that the case would come up next term. They admitted, however, that he had made no definite statement. Cross questioning revealed that Forrester was a brother of one of the accused and Craig was related by marriage to another defendant.

In defense of his proposal to set the trial for the Thursday date, Ashmore took the stand and underwent questioning by Sam R. Watt, of Spartanburg, seventh judicial circuit solicitor who is assisting in the prosecution. 30a

Ashmore denied that he had ever given the defense reason to expect a continuance. [illegible] 3-11-47

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lege teaching experience. The other daughter, Charlotte Wesley, was represented to the trustee board as a Ph.D., the very person to head the music department. Dr. Wesley had her elected but there was so much comment on the election when it was found that Miss Wesley not only had no Ph.D., but not even a master's degree, that President Wesley granted this daughter a leave of absence."

He also disclosed that when a vacancy in the matronship of O'Neil Hall existed, Wesley secured the appointment of his mother to that post, despite the fact that the age limit was 70 years and many have been forced to retire at that age. O'Neil Hall houses a large number of young girl students.

In addition, he charged that a check drawn from university funds each week for about $38 for the president's wife, or $166 a month. There are no others in the Wesley family except a son-in-law, who as a young physician was connected with the hospital for a short time.

STIPULATES CLAIMS

"The fact is that Wesley in four years had more of his family on the pay roll than all the other presidents of Wilberforce during the past 50 years," Bishop Ransom asserted. "Also President Wesley is the only president who kept members of his family on the faculty who had only a bachelor's degree.

Charleston SC

The Trial is at Greenville

News and Courier

30a

While the trial of 31 men is in progress at Greenville, the incitement of opinions for or against the defendants should be avoided. We notice editorial expressions in some newspapers not in accord with these views and we hope that readers of them nevertheless will maintain a cool and judicial attitude such as Judge Martin seems to require in the Greenville county courthouse.

The Northern press has sent reporters to cover the trial and the press associations are carrying copious reports on their wires. In some opinions we have read, writers have attempted to put the South itself on trial in this case. There are too many factors to be considered for anyone, especially someone far removed by distance and upbringing, to undertake judgment on the workings of South Carolina justice. The place of the trial is Greenville county, not in some other state or region of the United States. [illegible] 3-16-47

Due Process of Law

Constitution

30a

There can be nothing but admiration for the manner in which Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., has conducted the trial at Greenville, S. C., of the 31 defendants accused of lynching a Negro. Indeed, it would seem to many that the jurist bent over backward a bit too far when he ruled that the defense attorney could make no reference to the fatal stabbing of a taxicab driver which incited the mob to take the Negro from jail and lynch him.

Atlanta, Ga.

At this distance, however, it would be only fair to assume that the jurist was, in that instance, acting in the best interest of all concerned. Perhaps he feared that a detailed account of the stabbing would only further inflame racial prejudice without any compensating contribution to justice in the case.

We would be the first to admit that the stabbing could not under any circumstances furnish justifiable provocation for the lynching. For lynch law is, at best, anarchy and cannot be condoned under any conditions as long as legal justice is operative. It is not within the province of any group to deprive a person, white or black, of his constitutional guarantees of a fair and impartial trial, no matter what his crime. Constitution

The important thing about the South Carolina case, it seems to us, is that due legal processes have been carried out in the trial of the mob. For perhaps the first time in the history of the South the members of a mob were apprehended and brought to trial for their crime. That the trial has been orderly and fair is without doubt. Wed. 3-21-47

It is a tribute to South Carolina and a warning to others of the South who may believe that Judge Lynch can escape due process of law in mob anonymity.

7515

7515

'I Saw 28 Lynchers Set Free'

The Worker N.Y., N.Y.

Sun. 5-25-47

By Harry Raymond 30a (Trial - Results)

GREENVILLE, S. C.—I saw a jury of 12 white men stand up in open court here and put its official stamp of approval on the most horrible, blood-curdling lynching of a Negro ever to take place in the picturesque Piedmont region of South Carolina.

They cynically ignored hundreds of pages of damning testimony, evidence dripping with warm red blood, presented during a week and three days of an unprecedented criminal trial.

They rebuked a courageous prosecutor, Solicitor Sam R. Watt, who presented the evidence against the 28.

They stunned every progressive and decent citizen of Greenville County.

Twenty-six of the 28 men freed by the Greenville jury had signed their names to statements admitting they were in the drink-crazed mob that took Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro, from the Pickens County Jail on the dark morning of Feb. 17 and killed him like a pig.

The statements, read to the jury by Solicitor Watt during the long tense days of the trial, told how Hendrik Rector, scar-faced 34-year-old cab driver, pulled out a knife and carved five gaping gashes in the Negro's body before another member of the mob blasted his head in two with shotgun fire. Sun. 5-25-47

A statement by one of the defendants recalled how Willie Earle cried aloud as the knife ripped through his clothes and flesh:

"Lord me, you've all killed me!"

The jury heard statements from eight of the defendants describe how Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, stocky, 45-year-old taxi dispatcher, shot the Negro to death with a shotgun while he was stretched out bleeding from the knife wounds in the side on Bramlett Road. 30a

There were steely-eyed Paul Griggs, Marvin "Red" Fleming, 300-pound John C. Joy, Woodrow W. Clardy, and Samuel D. Stewart—all of them named in testimony as being part of the lynch mob.

Evidence showed Duran G. Keenan, a taxi driver like most of the rest, in the forefront of the mob with a shotgun. There was disbarred Lawyer W. D. Oakley. There was 28-year-old John B. Marchant, scion of a wealthy textile family. All of them, and more were named in testimony as members of the lynch party. (Trial - Results)

Sun. 5-25-47

THE 12 MEMBERS of the jury heard J. Robert Martin, Jr., tell them to bring in a verdict based on the truth. The judge had freed three other men who came to trial with them, stating there was insufficient evidence to hold them.

But, said the Judge, the fact that three had been declared not guilty by his directed verdict was no reason the 28 should be freed.

The 12 men heard the Judge declare a prima facie case had been made against the 28. He said a death penalty verdict could be imposed on the 28. He said a life penalty could be imposed or a 10 year prison sentence for conspiracy. But they marked the four sheets of paper the judge handed them with pencil checks under the words "Not Guilty."

No citizens of Greenville believes these men are not guilty of the blood-butchery. The jury did not believe it either. But the 12 men on that jury do believe it is entirely legal to lynch a Negro.

Willie Earle was in jail behind four sets of locks, under investigation on charges of knifing taxi driver T. W. Brown. But they didn't want Earle tried in court. They flaunted the law. They took him out and killed him. That's lynch law. And the jury verdict upheld that lynch law. Sun. 5-25-47

I SAW STYERAL of the jurors smile when they brought the shameful verdict into the crowded courtroom. The judge was glum as he scanned the verdict.

Solicitor Watt stood speechless. He would not talk to the press. Earlier, however, he said he believed the case marked the beginning of a new era in the South, regardless of how the case came out.

The new thing in the case was the fact that Governor J. Strom Thurmond demanded punishment of the lynchers. There was something hopeful about the way solicitor Watt fought against overwhelming odds for a conviction. There was something hopeful, too, in the way law officers aided in gathering evidence and bringing the case to trial.

But South Carolina has a long way to go to wipe out this blot of shame.

Solicitor Watt asked the jury to wipe it off. He told the jury no man woud be safe in Greenville if the lynchers went free.

But the jury heeded the snarling voice of defense attorney John Bolt Culbertson who announced in open court he hoped more like Willie Earle were dead. They heeded the inflammatory speech of defense lawyer Thomas A. Wofford, who stupidly declared the trouble in Greenville was caused by "northern agitators and radio commentators."

Sun. 5-25-47

RACE PREJUDICE and Jimcrow and murder had a holiday. There was the smell of blood on the hands of the men as they greeted each other with wide generous gestures in the Greenvill Courthouse Wednesday.

A famous British writer, Rebecca West, looked pale as she looked upon the spectacle. Newspapermen turned sick in the stomach.

One man spoke for many of us. He is Martin Popper, vice president of the National Lawyers Guild, special legal trial observer.

"The verdict confirms the fact that Federal action is essential," he said. "The evidence demands that the Department of Justice institute prosecutions for violations of the civil rights statutes.

Even defense counsel expressed surprise to the jury that the jailer had not been indicted.

"Furthermore, it was made clear to me that several deputy sheriffs knew that the crime was to take place and either condoned or at the very latest did nothing to prevent it. Sun. 5-25-47

"Apart from action in the immediate case, only the enactment of Federal anti-lynching legislation will afford decent protection against the denials of fundamental constitutional guarantees. The Greenville trial proves that however fair the surface forms may appear to be, state action alone cannot serve the ends of Justice.

"**THE LOCAL** prospecutive and judicial processes are an integral part of the economic and social relationships which constitute the semi-feudal body politic of the South. Due process is not merely an exercise in procedure. To have meaning, it must serve fully to effectuate the law. Unless we grasp this truth, the Fourteenth Amendment will remain a promise rather than a reality. Until the Federal government acts upon it to abolish lynching and discrimination, all democratic processes are in mortal danger."

RALPH McGILL

The Law Has Not Failed

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Wed. 5-28-47

A long time ago Mark Etheridge and I met in debate on the subject of a Federal lynching law.

30a (Trial-Results)

I took the negative. And lost.

I still take the negative, despite the shocking failure of persons with evidence, or information which might lead to evidence, to come forward against the lynchers in Georgia, and the equally dismaying acquittal of men who had confessed participating in a killing in Greenville, S. C.

In both these cases there was not involved any offense against a woman. Both lynchings were lynch-murders.

The difference between a lynch-murder and a plain murder is that in lynching the due process of the law is thwarted. The person or persons lynched are captured before the police officials find them, or are taken from the custody of a jail or court and killed.

There is a very real difference between a lynching and a murder, or a gang killing.

One is murder. A lynching is murder plus. It is an action which says that established courts, juries and law is not to be respected. It is a serious attack on the basis of our civilization—law and order—the due process of law.

No thoughtful person, therefore, can condone a lynching.

Federal Law Greenville offered some encouragement. The trial was fair and strictly according to due process of law.

Yet the jury, selected by due process of law, freed men who had confessed to participation in the crime.

It was not the failure of the accepted processes of law which prevailed in Greenville. It was the moral sense of the jury which was in the balance. It was the conception of justice and of what the law means which the jury had to express. The jury, given the law, returned a verdict which reveals as starkly as a blueprint the concept of justice held by the jury.

The law did not fail. Wed. 5-28-47

Another jury might have rendered a different verdict.

Law There are persons in Georgia who have evidence which would supply leads to the identity of the men guilty of the awful, bloody crime in Georgia of some months ago. The Federal law tried in Georgia. Again it was not the failure of the law. The law is no stronger than the people who live under it. If they are willing to run the danger of destroying the law and justifying mob law, they themselves must face the possibility of having the mob at their doors.

But, it is important to recognize that the Federal law did not fail in Gergia. It worked within the due and established processes.

The people who could have helped were willing to deny their moral and Christian duty because of fear. The people failed the law, not the law the people.

Legislation It is very difficult to oppose Federal lynch laws in the face of what has happened. Yet, we must think this thing out.

If we do, it seems to me the only course is still to oppose a Federal lynch law.

In the first place, it is a wretched confession to make to say that one does not believe one's own State will support its own laws. Are we so weak in moral strength we cannot support law?

But, we must think through to the objective.

The objective is to end lynchings and to make respect and support of due process of law an unquestioned part of our thinking and our actions.

If— If the Greenville case had been tried in a Federal court under Federal statutes with the same jury the State had, the result would have been the same. In addition, Federal law, which properly enjoys a greater respect than State law, would be damaged.

A Federal grand jury investigated in Georgia. It did a serious, searching job. It failed to find the guilty because the moral sense of those who might have helped was not great enough to overcome fear.

Therefore, it seems to me the Greenville case and the Georgia investigation argue loudly against a Federal law.

Meanwhile, let those hypocrites who would cry out in anguish to have the FBI called in to help search for one of their kidnaped children or grandchildren, examine their own false hearts when they cry out against "Federal interference" and "outside meddling" when lynch-murder is done and justice cries out that the law be allowed to function. Wed. 5-28-47

Between The Lines

(30a) S.C.

Lynchers At Large

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

By DEAN GORDON B. HANCOCK

Sun. 6-8-47 For ANP

The super-shame of the nation enacted at Greenville adds one more chapter to the gory annals of lawlessness. Although the country appeared stunned by the tragic turn of events in South Carolina, serious students of the color question were not surprised when the jury composed of the textile workers in the mills in and about Greenville acquitted the 28 men tried for the torture lynching of Willie Earle, a young Negro charged with stabbing to death a white taxi driver.

Although the grand jury seemed to mean business and so did Judge Martin, the final verdict was in the hands of a jury packed with the most ignorant of the ignorant classes in South Carolina. Anything except an aquittal would have been more surprising. Georgia makes no gesture in behalf of justice while South Carolina makes a gesture only. Which state will appear more disgraceful in the eyes of the world we dare not predict.

DOUBLE TRAGEDY

The whole episode amounts to tragedy upon tragedy. Tragic Willie Earle was what South Carolina made him. He was clay and his state was the potter. That it made a murder of him is a tragedy. The taxi-cab lynchers were what South Carolina made them. Their native state afforded the incubator of prejudice and the traditions of which lynchers were born.

The jury that acquitted these self-confessed lynchers are produced in South Carolina. So when we would lift holy hands of horror we must not forget that at the root of this whole bloody business is the state of South Carolina that wants its lynching one way or another.

What more could be expected of Georgia's neighbor state? Georgia lynched four without even a sham trial. South Carolina and Georgia are what they are because the south is what it is. The south is hospitable to lynchers for there are thousands of them at large in the south. In other words the south has been made safe for lynchers not alone by the tragic episode called the Greenville trial but by a tradition that stretches throughout three generations.

SOUTH NOT ALONE

When, however, we are exercising the south for its bloody peculations, we must not forget that the south is not alone in its super-disgrace. The nation is equally culpable. For the past 25 years the nation has refused to interfere with the lynch perogatives of the south. Not only the filibusters by congressmen of the south but northern abbettors of these fillibusters come in for their need of blame and shame. Sat. 6-8-47

The great respect which the state righters enjoy in congress is no less than respect for the lynching perogative. The south is lynch-ridden because the north would have it so. The north cares more for the good will of the south than it cares for the decent respect of mankind. The grave result is we are disgraced in the eyes of decent men everywhere throughout the world.

Any one of a half-dozen proposed anti-lynching laws would have long ago blotted this foul disgrace from our land. But the nation has temporized and as the result we have a resurgence of lynching that seriously threatens the civilization of the south and of the nation.

No wonder the British called the disgraceful episode at Greenville "trial by fury" rather than "trial by jury." What is even more tragic than the murder, the lynching and the infamous acquittal, is the fact that we are arrogating unto ourselves the moral leadership of the world. Just how far a lynch-leading nation can lead a troubled world is a grave question. We are told in Holy Writ that if the blind lead the blind both shall fall into the ditch. Just what will happen when a nation that leads in lynching assumes the moral leadership of the world, we are loathe to predict. Sat. 6-8-47

Press Comment On Verdict Of Lynch Trial

News + Courier

Charleston, S.C.

(By the Associated Press)

A number of Southern newspapers condemned editorially yesterday the verdict which acquitted 28 Greenville, S. C., men accused of mass murder in the alleged lynching of a negro. Fri. 5-23-47

"The whole South, the whole nation, must hang its head in shame over the verdict," commented the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal termed the verdict "a rebuke to the decency of that vast majority in the South who believe in the maintenance of law and order" and called it "a sad day for justice and the South".

"As much as most Southerners disapprove of federal intervention," said the Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald, "the verdict will increase the feeling, even in the South, that some other method than those now available must be found when negroes are murdered by white mobs, if we are to assure the punishment of the guilty."

Numerous Southern newspapers found it important that alleged lynchers were, for the first time in the South, arrested and brought to trial, with the Nashville Tennessean predicting that "fewer would-be mobsters, we believe, will be inclined henceforth to take the risks". Fri. 5-23-47

At Charlotte, N. C., The News called the verdict "the product of an ingrained prejudice", but added, "in the light of history it (the trial) appears as a triumph, an impressive demonstration that responsible South Carolinians have not lost sight of the ideal of impartial justice set forth by their own laws".

"This verdict for anarchy," said the Atlanta Journal, "is a challenge to all that is fair and decent and truly patriotic in the mind and heart of the South."

The Baltimore Evening Sun stated that "every Southern lynching unpunished intensifies the demand for a federal anti-lynching law, which is outside interference raised to the nth degree".

Some Variations Seen In a Familiar Pattern

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

ONE might say that a familiar pattern of behavior was duplicated in the lynching trial in Greenville, South Carolina. Twenty-eight men accused of murder and conspiracy in the death of WILLIE EARLE, a young Negro, were set free. Nobody doubted their guilt. Twenty-six had admitted being at the bloody orgy where EARLE, snatched from a jail cell, was beaten, slashed and shot to death. (30a) S.C.

It is the pattern of sectional pride, or what passes for pride, inflamed by allusions to "outside meddling." Old-style oratory waved the bloody shirt of "Yankee invasion, plunder and domination" after the war which to many Southerners remains a personal war. It was the sort of thing that most will agree re-elected THEODORE BILBO to the Senate from Mississippi last year. In that campaign a flood of resentful passion was loosed against the "foreigners" who would dictate to Mississippi—the commentators, writers and publications that worked amain to prove BILBO unfit because of his incendiary record.

The pattern is a pattern cut to fit a kind of immaturity suspended in emotion. The verdicts of the Mississippi electorate and the South Carolina jury are the responses of immaturity. They are the sort of thing that in effect continues, in the face of reason, to deny that the South is part of the United States. But the South is a part of the United States, and its behavior, attitudes, customs and representative men become inevitably those of the nation. Therefore, protests and criticisms from the outside are valid and proper. And whatever the effect of them in these recent cases, sooner or later they will have their impact. There cannot be two codes of decency, or double standards of democracy or rights.

When all this is said, however, the people of the United States must in fairness recognize the signs that the old pattern is changing, even if too slowly for some. One can see evidences of maturity, for example, in the conduct of Judge J. ROBERT MARTIN, JR., who presided at the trial of the Greenville lynchers. His was a vigorous insistence on law and decency. The law, he said in stern rebuke to wavers of the bloody shirt, takes no account of race or creed. That WILLIE EARLE was a Negro, that WILLIE EARLE himself had killed a white man, was not to be considered as extenuation for a mob that took the law into its own hands, for its own vengeful purpose. Judge MARTIN was a rock, and he was not moved by the swirlings of prejudice, insinuations and wiles with which defenders of the mob sought to reach and contaminate the jury. Fri. 5-23-47

The very fact that the trial was held, that it was stubbornly pressed by the prosecution, that for a time there was a tension of uncertainty on part of the men on trial, was itself a variation from the pattern. Here were no Yankee meddlers demanding justice. Here was South Carolina and the law of civilization. Nobody can write off the South as lacking entirely a sense of responsibility and maturity. To do so would be to deny that in spite of the case of WILLIE EARLE and the Monroe, Georgia, massacre last year and the Columbia, Tennessee, atrocity, lynchings have steadily declined in number. Southern organizations, educators, churches and citizen groups have been more effective in bringing about this record than any other.

There can be no doubt, however, that the outcome of the Greenville trial will have much to do with speeding up federal anti-lynching legislation. The majority in Congress is committed to its enactment, as well as anti-poll tax laws. There is no doubt that the President's newly-organized Committee on Civil Rights will move on the record of the WILLIE EARLE case to build the start of a program of American security under the law. The South is bound to be challenged on its right to the "peculiar institutions" which the mob's defenders invoked at the trial. There are no degrees in the American idea. Fri. 5-23-47

An Editorial
By Stetson Kennedy

Southern Justice—Lily White or Color Blind

PM.

30a S.C. (Trial Results)

New York, N.Y.

(Editor's Note: Stetson Kennedy, author of Southern Exposure, is no "damnyankee." He is a native of the South, and has never lived outside of it; two of his Southern forebears signed the Declaration of Independence, and his grandfather fought for the Confederacy.)

"You're not expected to convict anybody," said the defense attorney to the jury.

Kennedy

So confident was the defense, it didn't even bother to introduce any defense witnesses, even though the 28 white men on trial for the lynch-murder of a Negro had signed damning confessions.

Nor was the defense disappointed.

"Not guilty," declared the lily-white jury Wednesday, freeing all 28 men.

"Justice has been done—I feel the best I ever felt in my life!" bellowed Carlos R. Hurd, who had been named by fellow-defendants as trigger man.

"I think this is a perfect example of proving that the Dept. of Justice, Walter Winchell, and other people up North should keep their mouth out of the South's business!" shouted Defense Attorney Tom Wofford.

And so a trial unprecedented in Southern jurisprudence came to an oft-precedented end.

Greenville—like Columbia, Tenn., and Monroe, Ga., before it—had laid the whitewash on thick. Justice was jubilantly lynched, partly to maintain "white supremacy," partly to show the damnyankees who really won the Civil War.

Symbolizing the Spirit of Greenville were the collection jars for the lynchers' defense fund, which cropped up in local stores.

The brand of lily-white justice dispensed at Greenville, Monroe, and Columbia was grist from a mill whose foundations still rest upon the more or less defunct institution of chattel slavery. This same mill ground out the infamous Black Codes, which during the post-Reconstruction period went so far as to bar court testimony by Negroes against whites. Greenville means that the South has finally progressed to the point where it is willing to go through the motions of a lynch trial—with confidence that the jury will not convict. Fri 5-23-47

Even when a white man kills a Negro without provocation, lily-white Southern juries have always felt that such a crime should be regarded as a misdemeanor at most, with a maximum penalty of not more than 10 years. This is what the Klan oath, which requires all Kluxers to come to the aid of a Brother Klansman in any extremity, "treason, rape, and *malicious* murder alone excepted," really means: It's always open season on Negroes down South. It is the white man's privilege to kill Negroes with impunity. Only when a Negro kills a Negro is the crime regarded as murder.

I am quite certain that no Southern jury has ever sentenced a white man to death for killing one or more Negroes. To believers in white supremacy, the very idea of taking a white life for having taken a Negro life smacks of "social equality. New York N.Y.

For generations Southern Negroes have summed up this situation in a folksong (one of the few forms of protest permitted them):

"When a Negro kills a white man,
They hangs him like a goat;
But when a white man kills a
Negro, Fri 5-23-47
They hardly carries it to court."

Greenville carried it to court, the prosecutor prosecuted, the judge leaned over backward to be impartial—and the jury set all of the accused men free. Which goes to show that where prejudice is strong, justice is weak, no matter how militant the prosecution and how fair the judge. Judge Lynch has sat in the jury box as often as upon the bench. PM.

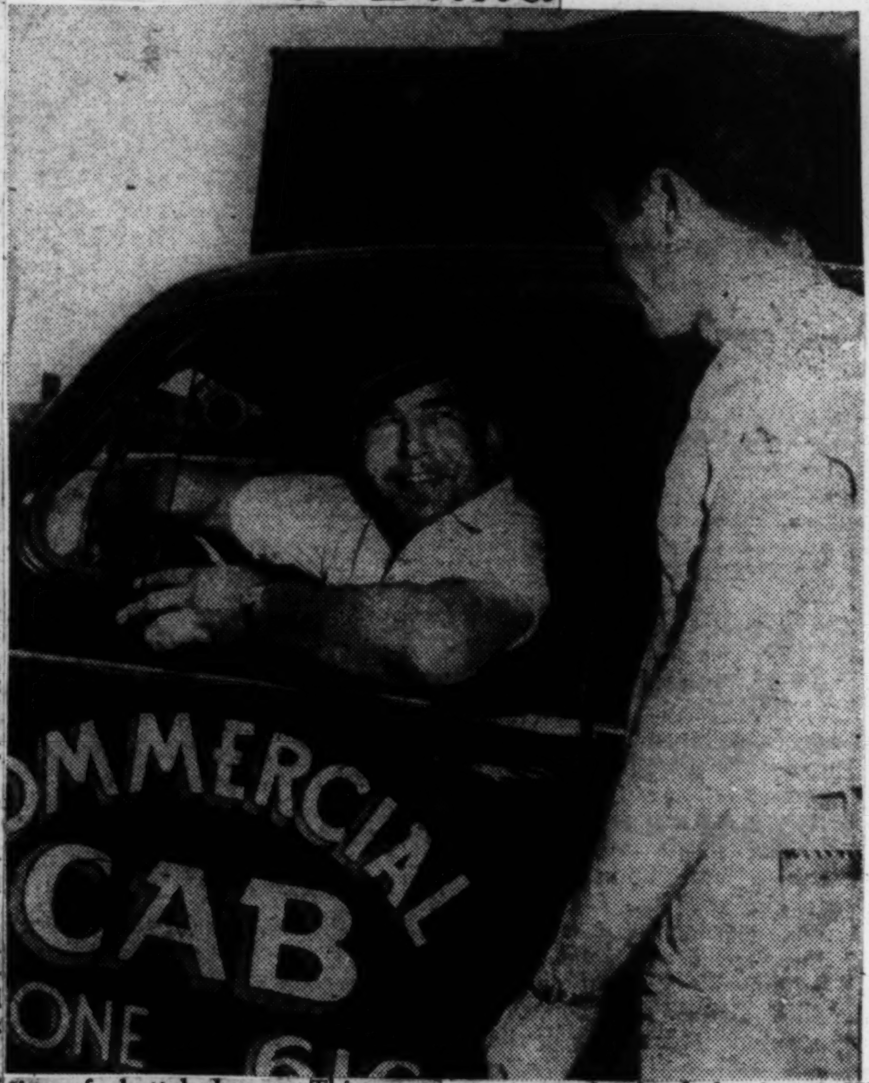
Almost all Southern juries continue lily-white, despite recent U. S. Supreme Court decisions overruling verdicts rendered by juries where it can be shown that Negroes were barred from service because of race. Greenville sidestepped the Supreme Court—in the already established manner—by going to the trouble of calling a few Negroes as prospective jurors, and then dismissing them "for cause."

Had there been even one unprejudiced man on the jury, white or Negro, there might have been a different verdict. Perhaps a grass-roots remedy will be found in the Southern union organizational drives. If more unions would open their doors without racial discrimination, and do the job of building brotherhood, justice could hardly suffer such a miscarriage as at Greenville. Fri 5-23-47

It is easy to say that the jury and white supremacists have blood on their hands. But the rest of us will likewise be unclean until we have exercised our duty as citizens of a democracy, and cut out the social cancer of lynching.

The time for passage of the long overdue Federal anti-lynching law is now.

STETSON KENNEDY



Back in the hack business, Woodrow Wilson Clardy stops to chat with an old friend, Duran Keenan. Both were acquitted.

Associated Press Wirephoto

News and Courier

To The News and Courier:

With regard to the lynching trial in Greenville, if that's South Carolina justice, deliver me.

Charleston, S.C.

MRS. H. L. GINSBERG
Bishopville. Sat 5-24-47

News and Courier

To The News and Courier:

The acquittal of 28 white men in Greenville for the brutal murder of a negro is an example of the justice which does not exist for the negro in South Carolina or elsewhere in the South. The prosecution in this case was presented in such a way that the verdict of the jury was inevitable. Had 28 negro men been on trial for the murder of a white man, we know very well to what lengths the prosecution would have gone in demanding the ultimate sentence for the murderers. 30a S.C.

Charleston, S.C.

To say that the jury in Greenville alone is to blame for our latest invitation to lawlessness would be to forget or ignore the blame that attaches to all of us who let pass a thousand smaller crimes against common justice daily without the lifting of a finger or the raising of a voice, however small, to halt it.

It is time to show the rest of the people of this country, and to prove it to ourselves, that there is still decency and good will among us. Let us begin at the beginning and strive for justice for ALL our people.

Sat 5-24-47 JOHN ZEIGLER
9 College Street.

UNWORTHY SONS OF THE SOUTH

Advertiser

30a (Tr-Result)

Members of the Greenville, South Carolina, jury which on Wednesday acquitted all 28 white men accused of lynching a 23-year-old Negro, probably thought they were being "good Southerners." Instead, they knifed the South and the nation.

Montgomery, Ala.

Despite statements from 26 members of the mob who admitted they took Willie Earle from the law (though each denied he actually did the butchering), the 12 jurymen decided that none of the mobsters was guilty of wrong, and set them free.

How did defense counsel win this victory? Was it by proving the defendants guiltless? Obviously not. The defense won simply by loud outcry against "federal interference." Defense Attorney Thomas Wofford closed his argument, shouting, "There's no cure for it except a verdict by a jury of this kind—to acquit these boys and show them it's no use meddling in Greenville County."

But what Greenville has really accomplished is to provide a torrent of fuel for those who already are pushing for federal laws dealing with lynch violence. When we in the South fail so flagrantly to give justice, we are asking for interference, and we will get it.

Fri 5-23-47

Those 12 weak men in Greenville have brought shame upon South Carolina, the South, and the nation.

When on Wednesday night they placed their stamp of approval upon lynch law, the news flashed not only to Montgomery; it went to New York, where delegates from the world sit in the United Nations organization trying to develop a world order based on law and decent regard for the rights of all men.

It went to Asia, where American prestige trembles in the balance before the gaze and suspicions of a billion people in violent transition.

It went to Moscow, where clever, patient men seek out the propaganda materials needed to drive nations away from America and into the Russian sphere of influence.

All in all, that Greenville jury did a fine day's work for the men who would cut the foundations out from under America. Their decision created new fear and doubt in the minds of U. S. minorities; it damaged public respect for the integrity of justice in our courts; it gave powerful propaganda ammunition to the enemies of democracy abroad and at home.

That Negro man, Willie Earle, did a damnable, criminal thing when he stabbed a white taxidriver, but his crime is little indeed beside the crime of those white men who in Nazi-like bestiality took him from the law and cut him to pieces, and beside the awful irresponsibility of those 12 jurymen who decided that, under the American way of life, as they know it, lynch law is acceptable.

Why Lynchers Escape

News

The Greenville, S. C., case differs from the Georgia lynching, which had no aftermath. In Greenville, there were indictments, there was a trial, there was a vigorous effort on the part of the authorities to convict the defendants, though the jury found them not guilty. In Georgia, it was impossible to make even this showing about an affair which was even uglier. Yet with respect to either lynching, Southerners capable of any objective appraisal have ample reason to be dejected. It is only too plain that, where race feeling is involved, our system of justice is not yet ready to function as satisfactorily as it does in other instances.

It is greatly to be feared that the Greenville acquittals will give a new impulse to the movement to make lynching a federal offense. On the basis of some old statutes, the FBI participated in obtaining confessions from the Greenville defendants. But the fact remains that the national government has extremely limited legal ground for going into local situations. There is a civil rights statute but it does not amount to much where mass-murder is to be dealt with. This is now too obvious to be disputed. Southerners in Congress who have been fighting lynching legislation will be specially handicapped by the outcome of the Greenville trial.

Birmingham, Ala.

But let us assume that Congress will pass bill aimed at lynching. What then? Offenders would have to be tried in federal courts, where juries are drawn from a wider community, to be sure, but are bound to operate under the same social compulsion which had its way at Greenville. The problem we face here lies deeper than legal techniques. It is plain that the law was being tracked in the Greenville case. There can be no complaint on that score. What will be attacked is the custom of the country. So long as many Southerners react as they do to this issue, lynchers face no great likelihood of punishment.

Jun. 5-24-47

Is there a solution? Yes, but only a gradual one, geared to the evolving standards of the future. As more and more Southerners come to see the wrong and folly of racial violence, sentiment will slowly crystallize into a potent social factor. As the economic picture changes, with Negroes making a great exodus from this section, as primitive notions of types and conditions of superiority lose their hold upon us, as a new sense of fair play and respect for law and human rights supplants the harsher mores, lynching will be less frequently resorted to because it will not be tolerated by the mass of our people. That amounts to looking to the farther future. Those who expect a quicker alteration forget realities. But that should not make them less eager and less persistent in working for the day when mob savagery against Negroes will be commonly and genuinely regarded as the despicable thing it is.

Jury Deliberates in Mass Lynch Trial

P.M., New York, N.Y.

30a S.C.

Jun. 5-22-47

By United Press

GREENVILLE, S. C.

An all-white male jury charged to ignore all racial issues began weighing the fate of 28 Greenville men in the most publicized lynch trial in history. The panel of nine mill hands, two salesmen and a farmer marched from the humid Greenville County courtroom to a dingy chamber down the hall where they were padlocked in.

Judge J. Robert Martin read a 40-page charge before a packed and hushed assemblage. He delivered an exhaustive explanation of the charges, the penalties and the points of law involved.

The jurors were to decide on the degree of guilt, if any, of 28 men charged with the abduction and slaying by knife, club and shotgun blasts of Willie Earle, a Negro accused of mortally wounding a taxi driver. Most of the defendants were taxi men. All 28 faced a possible death sentence.

Before the case went to the jury, U. G. (Hog) Fowler, a State witness who had testified as to alleged plotting in the Greenville Yellow Cab office the night before the lynching, applied to Magistrate Bates Aiken for a peace warrant. He asserted that three men had beaten him up Monday night and threatened his life. The warrant was not granted.

The defendants, packed shoulder to shoulder in the detention section of the courtroom, managed a bored look as the long charge was read—except for Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, accused of being the "trigger man" in the lynching. He frequently ran his hand through his stiff black hair as the charge was read.

New York, N.Y.

Before being led off to the yellow jail down the street to await the summons to hear the verdicts, the defendants were allowed brief visits with their wives and children. Some of them lingered in the courtroom engaging in horseplay and sipping soft drinks. Two defendants sat down briefly in the jury box and chuckled.

Reading his charge slowly before an audience that included 100 Negroes in the gallery, Judge Martin stressed that the jury's decision was in no way to be swayed by whether the lynch victim had been guilty of any crime.

5-22-47

"A court of law recognizes no color, no creed; therefore, gentlemen, I instruct you that under your oaths as jurors you are not to allow any so-called racial issue to enter into your deliberations in this case in any respect," Judge Martin read.

Accessory before the fact in South Carolina is a capital offense in the same category as murder and conviction on either of the two charges would mean the death penalty unless mercy was recommended. The accessory after the fact and conspiracy charges carry sentences of three months to 10 years.

The lynch trial jury was cautioned to ignore the fact that Willie Earle, mob victim, was charged with stabbing a Greenville cab driver. But Mrs. T. W. Brown, above, widow of the cabbie, was in and out of court daily, garbed in black, once taking a seat at the counsel table.

Associated Press Wirephoto

Communist Leader Demands Martial Law in South

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

The only answer to lynch law which has engulfed South Carolina, and now threatens the entire South, is an immediate declaration of federal martial law and immediate prosecution of all lynchers by courts martial," Henry Winston, organizational secretary of the Communist Party, declared yesterday.

30a S.C.

"The license to lynch," said Winston, "granted by the fear-inspired jury which turned the self-confessed murderers of Willie Earle free, has already borne hideous fruit. Not since the days of the Ku Klux Klan, following the Civil War, have the rights of Negro citizens been so violated.

Jun. 5-24-47

"The South Carolina verdict and the indifference of the Department of Justice make imperative the immediate declaration of a military emergency. Only such action can save Negro Americans from mass slaughter and violation of their property rights. Only such action can prevent untold bloodshed.

Jun. 5-24-47

"Today there is not a single Negro who can, in safety, walk the streets of the South. Today the machinery of law, state and federal, has admittedly broken down.

"Unless the United States government and President Harry Truman act, they are condoning lynching and condoning the acquital of self-confessed lynchers.

"In the name of all Americans, we demand an immediate declaration of martial law by President Harry Truman. We demand the seizure of the 28 self-confessed lynchers by the Attorney General and their immediate trial by courts martial."

7517

30a

Lynch trial defendants leaving courthouse.

Wirephoto

First Confession Read at Lynch Trial

PM, New York, N.Y.

Defendant Says He Was Out to 'Get' Willie Earle, But Got Lost on the Way

Wed. 5-14-47

30a

By United Press

GREENVILLE, S. C.

A defendant's confession, describing a pre-dawn rendezvous at the Greenville Yellow Cab office "to go get the Negro who cut Mr. Brown," was read to an all-white male jury as testimony began in the mass trial of 31 men charged with lynching Willie Earle.

The statement was signed by Willie Eugene Bishop, a 27-year-old cab driver with a seventh grade eduction, who admitted that he went ot the cab office with the intention of participating in the lynching but did not get to the execution scene in time.

His was the first to be read of the 26 statements made by defendants on trial for murder in the slaying of Earle last Feb. 16. Earle was abducted from the jail in adjoining Pickens County and his body, ripped by a knife and blasted by a shotgun, was found a few hours later in Greenville County.

The obvious motive of the lynching was retaliation for the critical wounding of W. T. Brown, Greenville cabby, who followed Earle in death by a few hours.

While a crowd of 500, including the shirt-sleeved defendants, packed tight in the small courtroom, listened intently, Bishop's statement was entered as evidence. It described how the mob gathered at the Yellow Cab office on Greenville's West Court St. in sight of the Courthouse.

Bishop said that another defendant, W. D. Oakley, 58, a cafe owner across the street from the cab office, had asked to be notified when "the boys went out to get the Negro that cut Mr. Brown," so he could go along. Bishop also named 10 other defendants as members of th caravan that started for te Pickens jail.

Bishop added that his car got lost from the caravan and he never astually saw the Negro but "I went to Pickens for the purpose of getting the Negro and killing him."

Bishop's statement said that one car in the caravan had a flat tire and two chain-gang guards, Earl Porter and L. H. Crowe, were called to the stand to identify defendant Paul F. Griggs, 22, as the man who had come to claim the car shortly after the lynching.

White-haired jailer Ed Gilstrap testified in a quavering voice as to how the lynch mob came to his jail in Pickens and "asked me if I had a Negro there for stabbing a taxi driver, and said 'We've come after him.'

PM

"I knew they meant business," said the 60-year-old, heavy-set jailer. "They had a shotgun."

He dared not resist them, he said, so he led the mob upstairs where Earle was held behind four locked doors. Two of the men went into the cell and pulled Earle out, Gilstrap said, and he himself remained behind to re-lock the doors so he did not see the lynchers leave. Gilstrap said he could not identify any of the mob but some wore taxi-driver caps.

During the first day's testimony the defendants mostly chewed gum and listened impassively. Many had their wives sitting next to them. Men and women were shabbily dressed. One defendant's wife was pregnant. Another defendant, dressed in mismatched trousers and shirt, held his chubby, blond baby daughter, curled up in his lap, asleep.

A majority of the defendants signed confessions to their part in the lynching.

The jury all live in the same county with the defendants but there are no cab drivers among them. Eight are textile workers, the foreman is a shipping clerk, another is a farmer, and two are salesmen. Wed. 5-14-47

Newsman Helped Bring Mob to Trial

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

Mon. 5-19-47

30a

By Harry Raymond

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 18.—The shocking, gory lynching of Willie Earl would have probably been hushed up last February and the current mass trial of 31 white men charged with the crime would not have taken place had a local newspaperman not stepped in and demanded action.

He is the Greenville **Piedmont's** chief political writer, amicable, gray-haired Cheves Ligon.

When Ligon heard the Negro had been snatched by a taxi-riding mob from the Pickens County jail, taken to a secluded spot near a slaughter house, carved with knives and blasted to death with a shotgun a just rage arose within him.

A Southerner, proud of the progressive, historic traditions of the Carolinas, Ligon threw every ounce of his energy into a one-man campaign to bring the lynchers to justice, and wipe the blot of shame from his beloved state.

He talked to persons, who heard the lynchers boast of their horrible crime, he pieced together scraps of evidence and broke the first story of the lynching under big headlines in his paper.

CALLED GOVERNOR

Ligon did not stop there. He called Gov. J. Strom Thrumond, World War II veteran, in Columbia. He demanded executive investigation, and maximum punishment of the blood-stained drunken mob.

Action of the governor was unprecedented. He ordered state constables to the scene, with orders to arrest and secure evidence against every man in the mob. All law enforcement machinery was geared to track down and punish the mob.

Protests from progressive sections of the white population of Greenville spread across the nation. Demands were made to the United States Attorney General Tom Clark. Ten FBI agents arrived. And for the first time in the history of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, G-Men, all of them Southern-born, helped local police weave a net of evidence around white men charged with lynching a Negro

Few local people believe all the 31 men, now on trial for murder in the little General Sessions Court room, will be convicted when the case winds up, perhaps late this week.

LOOPHOLES

It is possible Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., may direct a verdict of not guilty in the case of five defendants. It has been argued the FBI did a poor job, securing evidence against some of the group. Then there are thousands of legal loopholes through which it is possible for guilty men to squirm to freedom.

Special Solicitor Sam R. Watt, one of South Carolina's ablest attorneys, is prosecuting the case with a vigor never seen exerted by a prosecutor in the South in behalf of justice for Negroes.

Greenville is quiet today. White and Negro churchgoers, in bright summer clothes, crowd the corners, where rubber-tired street cars stop. There is an undercurrent of tenseness. But this can be discerned only in home conversations about the trial.

GRENVILLE IS PROUD

Along with other out-of-town newspapermen I have been a guest in homes of several of the leading citizens. Conversation always gets around to the lynching trial. In the homes I have visited the white people speak with pride of the fact that Greenville has shattered a precedent in attempting to bring lynchers to justice.

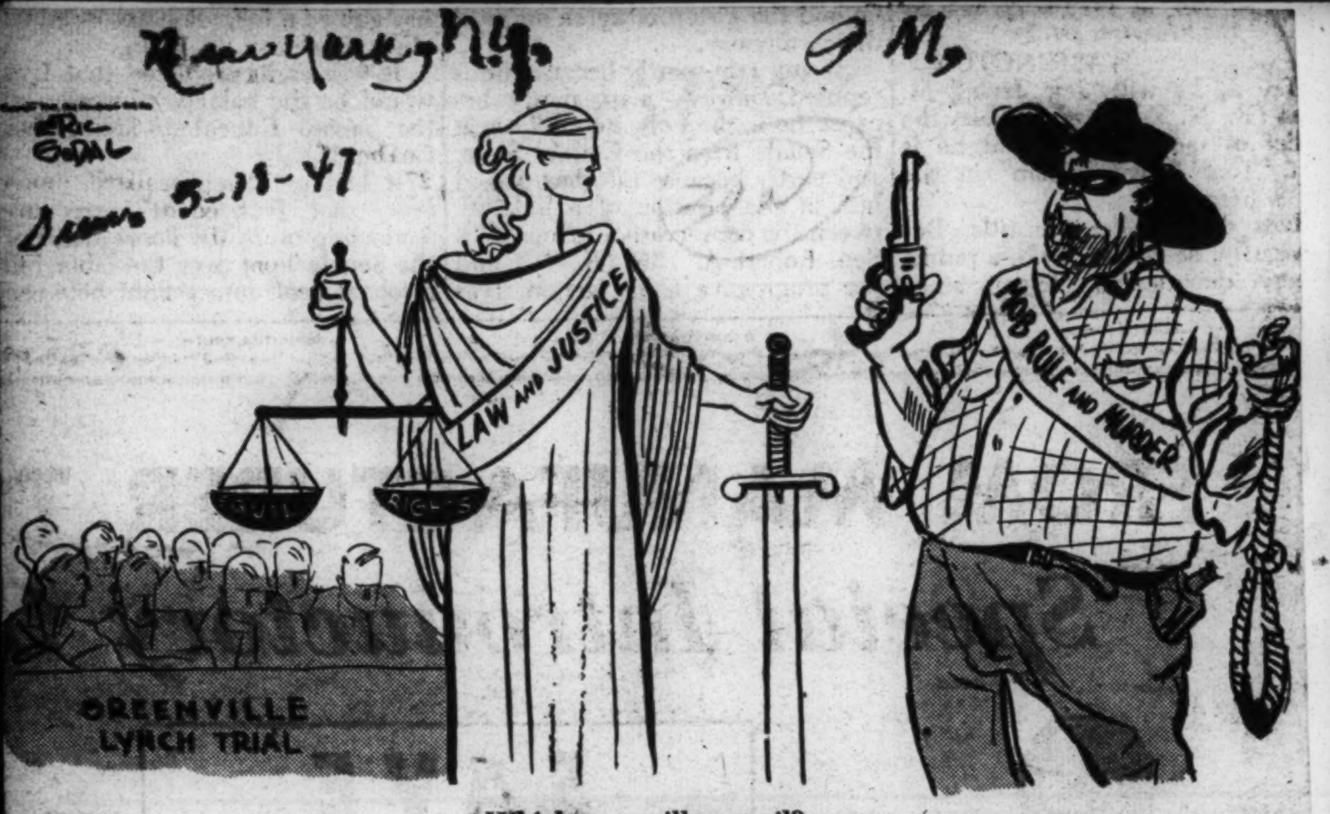
I have had considerable experience as a newspaperman fighting for Negro rights in the South. I have been depressed at times over the slow progress, but new-found friends among influential white citizens of Greenville, who have decided to take Jimcrow by the horns, lead me to believe the battle will be won sooner than many of us think. Mon. 5-19-47

New York, N.Y.

P M,

Sun. 5-18-47

30 N



Which one will prevail?

Mass Lynch Trial Nears Close

P M

26 Versions of Brutal Murder Read to Jury

30a S.C. (T.S.)

New York, N.Y.

GREENVILLE, S. C.

The South's first mass lynch trial ground toward its close with a weary jury, locked up since last Monday, listening to the last of 26 versions of how Willie Earle was abducted from the Pickens County Jail and murdered by a mob.

As the end neared, it appeared certain that the State would pin its hope for conviction on the confessions signed or X-marked by all but five of the 31 defendants.

It was noted that no confessed member of the lynch mob admitted striking a blow, wielding a knife or firing a shot at the helpless Negro. Each man insisted that he just went along with the crowd, either naming others as the actual lynchers or refraining from naming anyone at all.

Most of the confessions identified Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, 45, a taxi dispatcher, as the mob leader and trigger man; Woodrow Wilson Clardy, 33, as his chief lieutenant.

Hurd denied this, insisting he merely tagged along at Clardy's invitation. Clardy refused to make any statement at all. Other men, named by co-defendants as principals, are Marvin H. Fleming, Paul F. Griggs, Jr., and Ernest Stokes.

The defense plans to ask a directed verdict eliminating the murder charge, and the charges of accessory before and after the fact on the ground that incriminating statements of one defendant cannot be used to convict anyone but himself. It also will ask acquital of those not actually at the scene of the murder.

The State's contention is that all defendants are implicated jointly because the murder was part of a lynching conspiracy; that in a conspiracy a statement of one defendant involves all other defendants equally.

New York, N.Y.

Evidence has established that at least three of the defendants are illiterate, another went to school through the second grade, still another had only three years' education. One is a college graduate; another got into high school while the others had educations as high as the fifth grade.

Through the reading of the confessions, the defense charged over and over that the men were threatened with prosecution in Federal Court; assured that if a large number acknowledged participation, no South Carolina jury would convict them. Prosecution witnesses repeatedly denied these charges, declaring the statements were freely made.

A lynch trial foursome: Johnnie Willimon, top left, said he saw Paul F. Griggs, Jr., top right, and Hendrix Rector, lower left, drag Willie Earle from a cab at the murder scene. Howard Thompson, lower right, said he was there, too, but didn't see the killing. Sun. 5-18-47 Associated Press Photos

State Rests Case in Trial of Cabbies; Judge Rejects Pictures as Evidence

30a

Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

GREENVILLE, S. C. May 17—(AP)—The State of South Carolina rested its case Saturday against 31 white defendants, after Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., refused to admit in evidence the State's pictures of a Negro lynched last Feb. 17 by members of a mob.

Defense attorneys protested that the photographs were "incompetent, and highly prejudicial" to the defendants. "They don't prove a thing," said Defense Counsel Thomas Wofford, "except that the Negro is dead and everybody admits that."

Sun. 5-18-47

Solicitor Sam Watt insisted that the evidence was proper, arguing "the manner in which the body is mutilated certainly goes to prove malice in a murder charge.

"We feel in thisi case these pictures accurately portray the manner in which they (the defendants) went about killing this Negro. They are competent evidence and very valuable evidence on the part of the State."

Judge Martin, who earlier in the trial had declined to allow the photographs, said "Mr. Solicitor, I don't think I'll change my mind at this time."

A Federal Bureau of Investigation agent earlier testified that self-acknowledged members of a lynch-mob placed six accused white men in the taxicab which took Willie Earle to his death on a lonely roadside last Feb. 17.

The agent, A. B. Lea, said the lead cab from Pickens County jail where the Negro was seized, was driven by Woodrow Wilson Clardy, and listed the men guarding Willie Earle as Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, Sr., 45; Jessie Lee Sammons, 29; Hulbert Carter, 33, and Charles Maurice Covington, 20.

Before this car reached the murder scene, it stopped for questioning of the doomed man, Lea said. At this point, Sammons left the death car and Lea said he was told by Marvin Fleming, driver of another car, that Ernest Stokes, 35, got into the car with the Negro.

Stokes has been identified in statements read to the jury as the man who quizzed the doomed lynch victim about alleged stabbing of a white taxi driver.

The FBI agent also implicated John Marchant, a member of a prominent Greenville family, as having participated actively in the mob.

Constitution

He said Marchant told him during the investigation that he had driven to Pickens County jail and had followed the procession of lynchers. On the way, another car stopped with a flat tire, and Marchant picked up three alleged lynchers—Hendrix Rector, Paul F. Griggs, Jr. and James Arthur Fowler.

Atlanta, Ga.

Lea said Rector later transferred to another vehicle before reaching the scene of the murder. Marchant told him, he said, that he (Marchant) drove to the murder scene, passed it, and then turned back to Greenville after only a momentary halt. Marchant claimed he did not see the slaying.

The State offered Lea's testimony in a detailed reconstruction of the way the accused defendants were distributed among eight cabs and one private car.

The trial was interrupted momentarily when a State witness, John Taylor, collapsed with convulsions in the courtroom. He was carried out by several of the 31 defendants.

Sun. 5-18-47

CIVIC COURAGE SHOWN IN KEY CAROLINA TRIAL

Times

New York N.Y.

Governor, Officials and Citizens Seek Swift Justice in Lynching

Times 5-18-47

30a

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C. May 17—The paradoxical handling of the race problem in the South is being illustrated with unusual clarity in this textile city as thirty-one of its white citizens stand trial for the lynch-murder of a Negro.

With the eyes of the country focused on the unprecedented court-room scene in which white men for the first time are prosecuting white men who are alleged to have admitted the mob-murder of the Negro, Southerners proud of their heritage of fostering early American ideals of democracy know that the testimony of abject cruelty and lawlessness being spread upon the stenographic record is only a part of the true picture of Dixie and the problems she faces.

Responsible Forces

The hope is openly expressed here that the rest of the country will not be blinded by the lynch trial testimony to the play of forces that brought it into actuality.

Leading and responsible citizens in this state, whose positions embrace all walks of life and both races, point with pride to the incidents of high-minded courage that brought about the arrest and indictment of the defendants with such dispatch.

A large share of the credit is given to the youthful new Governor, J. Strom Thurmond, a veteran of D-day in Europe. Twenty-four hours after the lynching, the Governor had sent his state constabulary to this upper country area to join local sheriffs, city police and FBI agents in conducting the investigation.

Governor's Action

Forthrightly demanding that every effort be made to bring the criminals to book, Governor Thurmond soon followed up the arrests by having his Attorney General assign as an assistant prosecutor Sam R. Watt, solicitor in near-by Spartanburg for seventeen years and recognized as probably the most vigorous prosecutor in the state. Last year Mr. Watt con-

his school faculty year after year.

Another case is that of Wilfred Walker, who teaches brick masonry and trowel trades at the Negro high school. He and his wife live in a tastefully furnished brick house here. He sang with the famous choir at Virginia's Hampton Institute and directs a students' glee club here. He says, "Greenville is just the right size for me."

There are the curtains on some of the windows of the Negro high school. Recently white students spent a classroom hour at the Negro high school to discuss their common social problems. The white students were from the mill district school.

They had noticed that the Negro school building did not have curtains. A few weeks later they made a gift of curtains they had woven at their textile center school. In turn, the Negro students of brick work and masonry have done some building at the white

school building.

New York N.Y.

Restaurant Owners

There is Isaac White, Negro restaurant owner, who came here after living twenty years in New York City, to own his home and a yard and a business. He spends his spare time taking a leading part in Negro civic life.

There is gray-haired Hattie Duckett, who runs a Negro civic center, where teen-agers play tennis and dance once a week to keep off the streets. There is Janet Smith, the librarian, who sees that her readers get copies of books about Negroes and achievement to serve as inspiration for their imagination.

Times

Catholic Priest

There is Father Thomas McLaughlin of St. Anthony's Catholic Church, who has obtained a dozen scholarships for Negro boys of all faiths at private schools and colleges. His young men's club has champion basketball and baseball teams. A native of North Ireland and former resident of Boston, Mass., he has named the baseball team the "Braves." His leading supporter is a white business man who is a member of one of the local Baptist churches.

30a

These are the people and the forces that together in principle and belief created the "condition" that made it surprisingly unpopular to be accused of lynching. Together they forced the lynching trial. And together, all over the South, they are fighting to destroy the evils that are so graphically portrayed in Greenville's lynch-trial testimony.

Times 5-18-47

victed 471 of the 473 persons he brought to trial.

There seems little doubt here that Governor Thurmond has earned the enmity of the purveyors of race hatred and can expect to receive a certain number of "resentment votes" in any future primary contest.

South Carolina is one of the States that has adopted the "white primary" plan whereby all primary laws are rescinded and the Democratic party is converted into a private club that can bar Negroes from participation. Negro leaders here assert that if their race had primary voting privileges they could easily cancel out any white "resentment votes" as a Negro gesture of gratitude to Governor Thurmond for the position which he has taken in this case.

There is no surprise here at the sincerity with which Solicitor Watt has conducted the prosecution. He is known to have no interest in politics and last year it was reported he brushed aside a suggestion that he be a Gubernatorial candidate. He prefers to stick to the legal field.

Political Consequences

Greenville County Solicitor Robert T. Ashmore, who is co-prosecutor at the trial with Mr. Watt, and Sheriff R. H. Beardon, whose office brought about the arrest of the alleged lynchers, face political problems, in the opinions of many persons here.

The outstanding figure at the trial is the county judge, J. Robert Martin Jr., 37-year-old native of Greenville and former college football player. He forced the case on the present term calendar over the objections of defense counsel.

The manner in which he has conducted the proceedings has favorably impressed all observers here. Known as one of the ablest jurists in the state, he is in his third year of a judicial post that is filled by election in the State Legislature.

But behind these key principals in the prosecution and the trial are the responsible, fair-minded citizens of this community, Negro and white alike. There are the liberal lawyers and business men and textile workers who demanded on street corners and in restaurants that lynch law should not go unpunished.

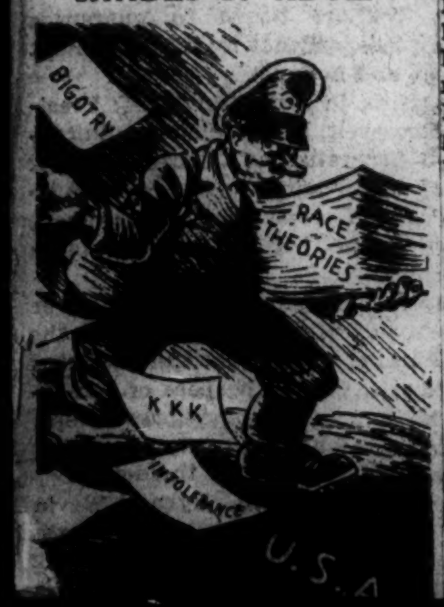
Press and Clergy

There is the local press that scored the lynchings from the beginning. There is the local Ministers Alliance that militantly deplored the example of lawlessness in the lynch-killing. These people know that they are a minority. But they are vocally insistent and they cite the examples of everyday life in their community to show what can be done when they work together.

There is Joseph E. Beck, 43 years old, principal of the Negro high school here, who cites the remarkable record of seventy-two of last year's 105 graduates now attending colleges as an example of the aspirations of Negro youth that are fostered by Dr. Beck and

7518

"SHADES OF ADOLF"



Lynch Prosecution Given Body Blow As Trio Is Freed, 7 Charges Reduced

Constitution, Atlanta

30a (Trial)

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 19—(UP)—Judge Robert Martin, in a triple-barreled ruling which knocked the props from the State's case, Monday exonerated three of 31 defendants in a mass lynch trial, reduced charges against seven others, and held that 26 confessions could be used only against the men making them and not as evidence against the others.

Defense counsel, immediately rested its case without calling a witness, and court recessed until Thursday, when opposing attorneys will deliver closing arguments.

Atlanta, Ga.

"In view of your honor's ruling, the defense rests its case," Defense Attorney A. Bolt announced immediately after the jurist read his five-page decision.

The confessions made by 26 of the defendants mostly accused others in the mob of taking part in the savage beating, stabbing and killing of Willie Earle, a Negro. Earle was pulled from the Pickens County Jail last Feb. 16 and lynched.

Because of what he termed insufficient evidence, Martin directed a verdict of not guilty in the cases of Earl Martin, Vardy McBee Norris and Ernest Stokes.

Martin reduced from murder to accessory and conspiracy charges the counts against socialite John B. Marchant, who allegedly went along to the lynch scene for the thrill of it and then expressed a desire for pictures, and Woodrow Clardy, bull-necked taxi driver, named by his companions as a ring leader of the lynching.

Also placed in the conspiracy, which carries a sentence of from three months to 10 years, were James Arthur Fowler, Willie Eugene Bishop, Howard Thompson, cafe owner N. D. Oakley and Samuel D. Stewart.

Twenty-one of the 28 defendants still on trial—including Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, the "trigger man" suspect — are still charged with murder as well as conspiracy.

But the jurist's decision, rendered after a weekend of study in answer to a defense motion for a directed verdict of acquittal, blunted the State's argument in all of the other cases. It meant that scholarly Robert Ashemore, the prosecuting attorney, would have to find other means to convince the jury in his closing argument Monday that the men on trial killed Earle.

5-20-47

In Praise of North Carolina

Courier-Journal

I am returning this clipping from your paper (Lyons Den column in which it is stated that Rebecca West "is covering the Greenville, N. C., lynching trial") and beg to advise you that the trial of the 28 white men for lynching a Negro for murdering a taxi driver, or rather for being accused of the crime, was not in Greenville, N. C., but in Greenville, S. C. If you and your staff would look after the things that happen in your own State, such as law violations, I am sure your readers would enjoy reading your paper more.

30a

5-23-47

According to your own statements of murders and law violations, I think a housecleaning should begin here. I have been a subscriber of your paper for 12 months and I have read several articles criticizing the South for being backward. According to your issue of May 21, Kentucky ranks 47th in education in the Union.

Louisville, Ky.

I was born and raised in North Carolina and am proud of it. I am proud to state that the Negroes have better schools there than white children have in Kentucky. I have been hospitalized at this V.A. hospital at Outwood and I have met some of the finest people I have ever known who are Kentuckians.

I think, Mr. Editor, you and the higher-ups in Kentucky should clean house and let the South alone. Then everything will be fine in old Kentucky.

Outwood, Ky. Sun. 3-23-47 JAMES E. ROBERTS.

Plan to Kill Earle Aired

Afro American

30a) S.C. (Trial)

Witness Discloses

Baltimore, Md.

Pre-Dawn Conspiracy

DEFENSE OBJECTS

Sat. 3-29-47

26 Confessions Read as Evidence

BULLETIN

GREENVILLE—Three of the 31 lynch defendants were freed Monday when Judge Robert Archer in directed verdicts acquitted Vadry Norris, E. N. Stokes and Earl Martin. The defense rested its case without offering any evidence and four-hour arguments were scheduled for Tuesday.

GREENVILLE, S. C. — "Let's go get the n—r."

A white man in a South Carolina courtroom, appearing Friday, on the fifth day of the first mass lynch-murder in the South, told the jury that he overheard those words at a pre-dawn meeting of a group of the defendants.

W. C. Fowler, a taxi driver, gave this damaging testimony against the 31 men accused of brutally slugging, stabbing and shooting to death 24-year-old Earle on Feb. 17.

Earle, who was being held on a charge of fatally stabbing T. W. Brown, white taxicab driver, was taken from the county jail at gun point by a mob of unmasked men, made to confess the crime and then sadistically slain.

Drank, Plotted Murder

Twenty-eight of the suspects are taxicab drivers, themselves. Fowler, who admitted that his nickname is "Hog," said that he overheard the men make up their lynch plot as he stood in a shack 20 feet from the taxi depot, where the mob congregated.

He named Hendrix Rector, Woodrow Clardy and Paul Griggs as three of the group, who, drinking whisky from a bottle that was passed from hand to hand, plotted the dastardly crime.

The witness, who said he could not identify the voice of the person who suggested the plot, did not change his story under heavy fire from defense attorneys, Benjamin A. Bolt and Thomas Wofford.

Vital Testimony Admitted

They protested that they were confronted with a "legal ghost," whom they could not cross examine, in the testimony concerning the voice; and they protested that the evidence could not be admitted to prove conspiracy.

Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., before whom the case is being tried, spent the better part of four hours reading citations on the legal problems, and ruled that the testimony is admissible.

30W) S.C.

One of the four charges faced by the defendants'is of conspiracy to commit murder.

(Trial)

Confessions signed or marked by 26 of the defendants, introduced thus far in the trial, could not, under law, be used against them on that count, defense attorneys argued.

State's Case Bolstered

Fowler's testimony, therefore bolsters the State's contention that all defendants are implicated jointly, because the murder was part of a lynching conspiracy.

Another white witness collaborating the State's case, was Roy Stansell, tourist camp operator, who told of giving a lift to three of the defendants on the morning of the crime after their automobile broke down.

He named Walter Oakley, Sam Stewart and Howard Thompson as the men whom he had carried to Greenville on that date. Each had mentioned the incident in their confessions.

A third piece of evidence uncovered at the trial, Friday, was the broken forepart of a shotgun, found hidden in a chimney flue, about 300 feet from the court building.

Hendrix Rector had surrendered the part of the weapon, which in his confession, he said was broken off in the beating of Earle.

None Admits Guilt

The reading of the 26 confessions of the defendants by Sam R. Watt, co-prosecutor, was concluded Friday In them no member of the mob admitted striking a blow himself, wielding a knife, or firing a shot at the helpless victim.

Each man insisted that he just went along with the crowd, either naming others as the actual lynchers or refraining from naming anyone at all.

The statements of most of the mobsters name Roosevelt Hurd Sr., 45-year-old taxicab driver, as the mob leader and trigger man; and Woodrow W. Clardy as his chief lieutenant.

Hurd Denies Guilt

Hurd, a dumpy, short-sighted man, who admits he never got beyond the second grade in school, denies this, saying that he tagged along at Clardy's invitation and that he could not even bear to look when Earle was being done to death.

Marvin H. Fleming, Paul F. Griggs Jr., and Ernest Stokes were other defendants named as principals in the slaying in the confessions, five of which had to be signed by X's because suspects could not write.

Although one of the defendants is a college graduate and another got out of high school, three of them are completely illiterate, another went only as far as the second grade, a third had a third grade education and the rest did not attend school beyond the fifth grade.

Earlier objections to the admission of the confessions at the trial had been overruled by Judge Martin; and they now loom as the State's strongest evidence.

Directed Verdict Sought

The defense, Saturday, asked a direced verdict eliminating the conspiracy and murder charges and the charges of accessory before and after the fact.

It also claims that incriminating statements of one defendant cannot be used to convict anyone but himself; and it will ask acquittal of those not actually on the murder scene.

The suspects' lawyers specifically asked that the five men who were implicated by self-acknowledged members of the lynch-mob but who refused to make statements to police or Federal agents, be acquitted.

These are Clardy, said to be the driver of the car that took the victim from jail to the death scene; Stokes, identified by others as the man who beat Earle into confessing Brown's slaying; Sam D. Stewart, Vardy M. Norris and Earl Martin.

Rich Men's Freedom Asked

The defendants also claimed the State failed to link John B. Marchant, James Fowler and W. D. Oakley with the murder and asked their acquittal.

Martin and Marchant are members of rich South Carolina families; while Oakley operates a Greenville cafe. Only these three in the lynch-mob were not taxicab drivers.

Robert T. Ashmore, the other co-prosecutor, holds for the State that a confession of one defendant involves all other defendants.

Judge Martin said that he would take the case under advisement over the week end and would rule on Monday whether to allow the statements as incriminating all defendants on all counts.

His ruling will cover the following four situations, as charged:

1. All 31 defendants accused of the murder;
2. Defendant Roosevelt Hurd Sr. accused of murder and all other accessories before the fact;
3. Defendant Hurd accused of murder, and all other accessories after the fact;
4. All 31 defendants accused of conspiracy to commit murder.

30W) S.C. (Trial)

State's Case Rested

The judge, Saturday, refused to admit in evidence a series of gruesome photographs showing how Earle was beaten and knifed before his head was nearly shot away by three charges of birdshot from a 12-gauge single-barrel shotgun.

The State rested its case with testimony of a Federal agent, A. B. Lea, placing Marchant, scion of a wealthy mill owner, on the scene of the crime, as driver of three taxicab men, whose cab was disabled by a flat tire.

Backing Up The Lynchers

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

30W) S.C. (Trial)

(The Lighthouse And Informer)

While we have read thousands of editorial words on keeping "outsiders" out of the Greenville lynching, we have not, as this item is written, read one word against white textile workers, commissaries and stores in Greenville who are raising money to defend the lynchers. There are reports that drives for "defense funds" for the suspects, 26 of whom have admitted their crime, from some parts of Georgia and, even right here in Columbia. Thurs. 3-13-47

There has been no campaign for funds to aid in their prosecution and the "outsiders" have, as they usually do, remained sympathetic and respectful of state effort to dispose of the case. Hence, there has been no excuse for this general attempt to "free" the men.

And it is such actions as this which induce many "outsiders" to move in. In fact, the "outsiders" are invited in by defenders of the evil and bad people among us. Thur. 3-13-47

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7519

Demand Death for 28 in Lynch Trial

30a S.C. (Trial) Daily Worker, Wed. 5-21-47

By HARRY RAYMOND

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 20.—A tall, partially bald state prosecutor stood in the heated atmosphere of a crowded, over-tense courtroom today pleading with passion for death penalty convictions of 28 white men charged with lynching a Negro. An all-white jury sat with deadpan expression as the prosecutor walked up to the rail, looked seriously into each of the juror's eyes and said:

New York, N.Y.

"The most horrible calamity that could happen now would be to let those men go free."

The prosecutor is Sam R. Watt, special solicitor, assigned on orders of Governor J. Strom Thurmond, to search out and bring to justice members of the mob that snatched 24-year-old Willie Earle from jail Feb. 17, mutilated him with knives and blasted his head apart with shotgun fire.

FIRST OF KIND

Solicitor Watt's long courtroom speech was the first of its kind ever made in a southern court by a state prosecutor.

Watt launched his address after John Bolt Culbertson, defense attorney and legal representative of local AFL and CIO unions, sought to inflame the jury with shouted insults against dead Willie Earle, the Negro people and the prosecution.

Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., warned Culbertson twice against making violent chauvinistic remarks But Culbertson turned to the jury, waved his arms and bellowed:

"We all know Willie Earle is dead. I wish some more like Willie Earle were dead."

Judge Martin banged his gavel. He stopped the lawyer.

"That's highly prejudicial," the Judge declared. "This is the last warning."

Culbertson placed a huge family bible on the jury rail. He quoted from the Old Testament as he appealed for release of the 28 men, 26 of whom had signed statements admitting participation in the lynching.

Before the lawyers began their summaries, which continued all day, Judge Martin warned he would bar statements of racial incitement. He said he would not permit the defense to refer to the fact that the Negro was in jail charged with stabbing white taxi driver T. W. Brown, who later died, as a mitigating or justifying excuse in behalf of the defendants

But Culbertson got around that by referring to the trial as a **"Southern trial," one in which "we all understand each other."**

Solicitor Watt opened with the statement that "the majesty of the law has been trampled on and outraged by those who respect it not."

New York, N.Y.

"That's why we are here," he told the jury. "When you took your oath as jurors that was the dawning of a new day. I take it you will write a verdict based on the truth and not swayed by oratory."

Watt related how Willie Earle was in the Pickens County Jail behind four locks and not walking the streets when the mob drove up in a taxi fleet and seized him.

"DESPICABLE MURDER"

"Here in your fair county, in which you have a right to be proud, there in the darkness of those hours almost under the eaves of your churches and cottages, this group of men conspired a most hellish desire to take the life of a human being," the prosecutor continued. "While you were asleep these men were planning to commit a despicable murder. And they (the defense lawyers) say to you, turn them loose."

He told how the defendants did not have the courage to go without help, how Hendrix Rector, the man accused of mutilating the Negro, passed the bottle around "filling their bellies with liquor to give them courage." He read the defendants' statements telling how they took Earle to a lonely road near a slaughter pen, where Roosevelt C. Hurd, taxi dispatcher, was said to have blown out his brains with a shotgun

Daily Worker

"What did they do?" Asked **Solicitor Watt. "The sweat was streaming down his face." "Did they do anything brave? There was that poor Negro. And they took him out.**

"Gentlemen, if that kind of stuff is condoned then no man's life is safe. And they (the defense attorneys) ask you to turn them loose."

Watt told the jury they should take their hats off to the State constables, local police and sheriffs' officers who placed the defendants in custody and FBI agents who secured signed statements admitting the crime.

DEFENSE COUNSEL SNEERS

Defense counsel Benjamin A. Bolt suggested the FBI go out of existence if it "can't do any better than this."

"All they found was just a n-----r boy," Bolt shouted. "Why, you'd think they found a new atomic bomb."

Wives of the defendants sat beside them in the prisoner's section. Two of them sneered loudly when prosecutor Watt pointed at the prisoners and called them "bestial and blood-thirsty murderers."

"Let the world know we have all united once and for all to scratch the blot on the escutheon of the State of South Carolina," declared Solicitor Watt, concluding his appeal.

UPHILL FIGHT

A second summary for the State was made by Solicitor Robert Ashmore. Throughout his address to the jury, Ashmore referred to Willie Earle, the lynched Negro as "the n----r." Other spokesmen for the defense were Thomas A. Wofford and P. Bradley Morrah.

Of the 28 defenddants, 21 are charged with first degree murder. Seven are charged with being accessories before the fact, also a capital offense. All are held on conspiracy counts.

30a S.C.

Originally there were 31 defendants. Three were freed yesterday on a directed verdict by the court.

(Trial)

It is recognized by all observers that the prosecution is fighting an uphill battle. Court rulings yesterday forbidding the statement of one defendant to be used against another has added considerable difficulty to the prosecution's efforts for convictions.

Daily Worker

The FBI agents, while securing a batch of confessions from the defendants, produced only three witnesses to bolster the statements. Defense attorneys are citing this as a strong legal point in their case.

The case is due to go to the jury tomorrow following the charge of the Judge.

New York, N.Y.

Defense Attorney Thomas A. Wofford was shut off by Judge Martin when he told the jury that: "Northern agitators and radio commentators cause all the trouble down here."

Wofford apologized and continued his inflammatory speech, stating: "It's our South, and I wish to God they would leave us alone."

Woffard was warned twice earlier by the Court; once when he denounced interference from Washington officers in the case, and again when he violated a court order by discussing the alleged attack by William Earle on cab driver Brown.

Wed. 5-21-47

SEATS NINE JURORS IN LYNCHING CASE

Times

30a

South Carolina Judge Begins Trial of 31 in Courtroom Jammed With Neighbors

New York, N.Y.

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 12—After one hour and forty-five minutes of dramatic examination in a crowded court room here today, nine jurors were chosen for the trial of thirty-one white men accused of lynching a Negro.

Matching the swiftness that marked the arrest and indictment of the alleged mob-murderers, which set a record in the South for the handling of a lynching case, the trial was adjourned until tomorrow morning, when the first panel of veniremen was exhausted.

Times 5-13-47

What is believed the biggest lynching case in Southern history drew hundreds of spectators who jammed the corridors and stairways and sat on railings and radiators in the court room. They watched their thirty-one neighbors open the colorful proceedings with the old South Carolina custom whereby each defendant rises and asks to be tried "by God and my country," and each, in turn, is answered by the clerk of the court with doleful phrase: "May God give you a true deliverance."

The presiding county judge, J. Robert Martin Jr., 37-year-old native of Greenville, who forced the case to trial over objections of defense counsel, nipped in the bud a bid by counsel for both sides to thrown open the interrogation of prospective jurors to the subjects of the Ku Klux Klan and the radio broadcasts of Walter Winchell.

Forty minutes after the judge had made his ruling, Solicitor Sam R. Watt, of near-by Spartanburg, whose record as a vigorous prosecutor had brought him into the case at the instance of Governor J. Strom Thurmond, asked five sharp-worded questions which exposed a prospective juror as having been convicted with a group of klansmen wearing hoods and robes.

30a

It was while Judge Martin was compiling a list of questions to be put to veniremen to determine their qualifications for serving as jurors that Mr. Watt asked that each venireman be queried on whether he were a member of any "secret organization, lodge or association."

Thomas Wofford, of defense counsel, said that he thought such a question might be "embarrassing." Mr. Watt replied that he had no intention of "embarrassing" anyone, but that he did not see why anyone should object to such questioning.

Times

Benjamin A. Bolt, of defense counsel, leaped to his feet and requested that each venireman be asked if he had heard the radio broadcast on March 2, last, of Walter Winchell.

In the broadcast, Mr. Bolt said, "He called these boys a group of murderers and a disgrace to the State of South Carolina." Mr. Bolt then added: "That was a highly inflamatory broadcast."

New York, N.Y.

Judge States His Program

Judge Martin then ruled that he would not make either request a part of the compiled list of questions but that ocunsel could ask any individual veniremen about membership in any specific organization if they were so minded.

The judge added: "I will ask them the general question of whether they can give a fair and impartial trial and I'm going to find out to my satisfaction if they can give a fair trial for the State of South Carolina."

The sixth venireman called, W. C. Vest, when asked if he had formed an opinion in the case, answered: "I wouldn't say I had and I wouldn't say I hadn't."

Mr. Watta took over the questioning and asked the venireman if he had ever been indicted in Spartanburg, where Mr. Watt is prosecutor. Mr. Vest said he had and Mr. Watt replied that he thought he had recognized him from a brush with the law in the past.

Asked if he had belonged to "a secret organization," Mr. Vest said: "I was not a full-fledged Klansman." He admitted that he had been found guilty of the charge against him, which was never described in the questions.

Mr. Watt inquired: "Weren't you with a group of an organization that was wearing robes and hoods at the time?"

S.C.

Mr. Vest said the others were wearing such costumes but that he was not.

Judge Martin waved the venireman from the courtroom and said: "I'll stand him aside of my own volition."

The judge thus saved the defense and prosecution from exercising a valuable challenge.

31 Defendants Plead Singly

The most dramatic moment of the day was the formal reading of the indictment at which custom requires the defendants to rise singly and plead, and then remain standing while the entire true bill is read to them.

One by one the thirty-one defendants, six of them without jackets and wearing open-necked shirts, stood up before the eyes of about 350 courtroom spectators. When the roll call was completed there was a great quiet as the defendants shifted their feet and stared at the floor and 100 Negroes, occupying their traditional places in the balcony, turned and whispered in groups and nodded toward the men.

As the names were being called there was a craning of necks and waves of whispered talk about the courtroom when Roosevelt Oscar Herd Jr., alleged trigger man, and Hendrix Rector, alleged knife-wielder, stood up.

An unprecedented aspect of the case concerns twenty-six statements of record by that number of the defendants, which allegedly place all in the lynching mob and generally agree on the identity of the triggerman.

Wives Sit With Accused

The defendants are accused of forcibly taking Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro, from neighboring Pickens County jail house on Feb. 17, last, and killing him with a shotgun on a near-by country road. Earle had been arrested for the alleged stabbing and robbery of a Greenville taxi driver, who died about five hours after Earle's body was found.

Under South Carolina law a defendant in a murder case is entitled to have his wife sit beside him in the courtroom. Seven of the defendants' wives, one of them an expectant mother, were present today. Frequently the couples put their arms about each other and two of the couples held hands throughout the proceeding.

When the defendants rose for the indictment reading, the wives slumped in their chairs and lowered their eyes. Several bit their lips as the clerk said that Earle's death had resulted from a shotgun, knives, feet and fists.

Cabby Admits Following Mob To Lynch Man

Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Wed. 5-14-47

Tells of Rendezvous At Taxi Office

302

Greenville, S. C., May 13 (AP)—A defendant's confession, describing a predawn rendezvous at the Greenville Yellow Cab office "to go get the Negro who cut Mr. Brown," was ready today as testimony began in the mass trial of 31 men charged with lynching Willie Earle.

The statement was signed by Willie Eugene Bishop, a 27-year-old cabdriver who admitted that he went to the cab ofice with the intention of participating in the lynching but did not get to the execution scene in time.

Cabbie Died Later.

His was the first to be read of the 26 statements made by defendants on trial for murder in the slaying of Earle last February 16. The Negro was abducted from the jail in adjoining Pickens County and his body, ripped by a knife and blasted by a shotgun, was found a few hours later in Greenville County.

The motive of the lynching was retaliation for the critical wounding of Greenville cabby W. T. Brown, who died shortly after Earle.

While a crowd of 500, including the shirt-sleeved defendants, packed tight in the small courtroom, listened intently, Bishop's statement was entered as evidence. It described how the mob gathered at the Yellow Cab office on Greenville's West Court Street in sight of the Courthouse. Bishop named 11 other defendants as members of the caravan that started for the Pickens jail.

His Car Got Lost.

Bishop added that his car got lost from the caravan and he never actually saw the Negro.

Bishop's statement said that one car in the caravan had a flat tire and two chain gang guards, Earl Porter and L. H. Crowe, were called to the stand to identify defendant Paul F. Griggs, 22, as the man who had come to claim the car shortly after the lynching.

White-haired Jailer Ed Gilstrap testified in a quavering voice as to how the Lynch mob came to his jail in Pickens and "asked me if I had a Negro there for stabbing a taxi driver, and said 'We've come after him.'

They Meant Business.

"I knew they meant business," said the 60-year-old, heavy-set jailer. "They had a shotgun."

He dared not resist them, he said, so he led the mob upstairs where Earle was held behind four locked doors.

Wed.

Gilstrap said he could not identify any of the mob but some wore taxi-driver caps. Gilstrap's close-cut head showed two recent scars where he was wounded two weeks ago during an attempted jail break. He killed one of the would-be escapers.

5-14-47

Lynchers' Lawyers Quibble

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

By Harry Raymond

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 16.—A slender scar-faced tax driver squirmed nervously in his chair today as he heard his own words condemn him as an active leader of the blood-thirsty mob that lynched Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro, three months ago on lonely Bramlett Road.

He is Hendrix Rector, 34, one of 31 white men on trial for murder in the small, dingy Greenville courthouse.

Rector is charged with stabbing Earle five times before the Negro's life ebbed from a gaping shotgun wound in the head. Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, squat and greying taxi dispatcher, is charged with firing the fatal blast.

Rector's confession, made to FBI agent Tullis D. Easterling, told how Rector went to the Pickens County jail, with seven men in a cab on the morning of Feb. 17. He said there were about 50 in the mob.

LED HIM TO CAR

"I went up on the porch and into the jail," said the cabby's confession, "Some went upstairs. The Negro was brought downstairs where I took him by the hand and led him to door where someone else took him and held on to him until we got him to a car."

Earle was being held in the jail for investigation after T. W. Brown, 48-year-old Greenville cabby, said he was stabbed by a Negro fare he was taking to Pickens County.

Brown died two days later. Sat 5-17-47

Rector's brief statement told how he pulled up to the Yellow Cab office around 3:30 a.m., to change a flat tire. He said Willie Bishop, a cabby and also a defendant, asked him to go along and "get" the Negro.

"Somebody suggested we get some whiskey," stated Rector. "We chipped in and I went and got a quart and we drank it up."

He said he heard "one of the boys ask the Negro why he stabbed Brown"; he quoted Earle as saying: "He (Brown) hit me."

302

Rector's statement contained nothing about the stabbing of the Negro. But another defendant, Jessie L. Sammons, in his confession, filled in the macabre details of the death scene left out by Rector.

Sammons pictured Rector standing over the Negro with a pocket knife. He said: **"I could hear the cutting of cloth and flesh."**

James R. Forrester, another defendant, stated in a confession read earlier: **"I could see Rector cutting the n——r with a knife. I heard the n——r say, 'Oh Lord, you've killed me.'"**

State Solicitor Sam R. Watt introduced confessions by 26 of the 31 men accused of the lynching since the trial opened last Monday. Defense attorneys Thomas A. Wofford, Benjamin A. Bolt, P. Bradley Merrah and John Bolt Culbertson battled vainly to keep the jury from hearing the confessions.

LEGAL BATTLE

A long legal battle between state and defense lawyers raged during part of the morning in the absence of the jury over admissibility of testimony of cab drived U. G. Fowler who said he overheard other drivers plotting the lynching at the Yellow Cab station.

Fowler testified defendants Rector, Paul F. Griggs and Woodrow W. Clardy were in the group drinking and discussing plans for the lynching.

S.C.

"Did you hear any talk between Rector, Griggs and Clardy?" Solicitor Watts asked Fowler.

Yes.

Q.: What was said?

A.: Better take a drink; it will soon be gone.

JURY EXCLUDED

At this point the jury was excluded on objections by Wofford, the questioning of Fowler continued.

Q.: What statement was made?

A.: Meet at the river and we're going to Pickens.

Q.: What were they going for?

A.: They were going to get the n——r.

(302)

Judge Robert Martin, Jr., called back the jury and said he would allow the Fowler testimony as a basis to show a conspiracy. Attorney Bolt argued Fowler had identified none of the defendants as participating in the conversation.

Judge Martin permitted the jury to hear the damaging testimony.

Throughout the trial Judge Martin has constantly overruled defense statements designed to prejudice the jury in favor of the defendants. He sharply rebuked defense lawyer Culbertson, former FBI agent, for loudly whispering his opinion of state's testimony offered by an FBI agent.

One of the ironies of the case is the fact that Culbertson, while defending the men charged with the brutal lynching, is at the same time attorney for the local CIO.

LYNCHING AT THE BAR

Times
New York, N.Y.

Yesterday, in the little city of Greenville, S. C., Southern justice, inspired by Southern officials, from Gov. Strom Thurmond down, backed by influential white sentiment, brought to the bar thirty-one white men accused of taking part in the lynching of a Negro. The jailer who unlocked the cell door last February and delivered Willie Earle into the hands of a mob had been unable to recognize any member. This inability is traditional. But police officials were more successful. They have confessions of one sort or another from twenty-six of the accused.

302

Willie Earle was accused of an evil crime. If guilty, he had robbed and stabbed to death a Greenville taxi driver. But the mob, as is the way with mobs, did not know he was guilty. They did not give him a hearing. Now, with the backing of a strong portion of South Carolina opinion, they themselves face due process of law. Whatever the outcome of the case, this is a red-letter day in the South Carolina courts.

Tues 5-13-47

7520

Hear Lynch Mobster's Confession

Daily Worker

By Harry Raymond 30a (Trial)

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 14.—A blood-curdling story of how 31 white men snatched a 24-year-old Negro from the Pickens County Jail, escorted him by taxicab cab caravan to lonely Bramlett Road, four miles from Greenville, beat him with a gun-butt, blew off the side of his head with three shotgun blasts and mutilated his warm body with knives, was unfolded here today in a courtroom action that has no precedent in the South.

New York, N.Y.

Thirty-one white men, 25 of them local taxi drivers, have the best seats in this unusual trial. They stare with stony faces at the youthful judge and 12 white jurymen, apparently seeking some expression of sympathy. They are the defendants, the State of South Carolina is prosecuting them for murder. How well this is being done the next few days will tell.

The 31 moved uneasily in their chairs and their morning smiles vanished when special State Solicitor Sam R. Watt read to the jury a gruesome confession by Charles Covington, Greenville cabby. Covington admitted in his statement he was a big shot in the mob that lynched Willie Earle about 5 a.m. last Feb. 17.

CONFESSED FREELY

Thurs. 5-15-47

Earle was in the Pickens County Jail charged with stabbing white taxi driver T. W. Brown, who died following the lynching, when the mob came and took him from non-resisting 62-year-old jailer, Edward Gilstrap.

"I was taking Howard Thompson, another car driver, home," said Covington's statement. FBI Agent P. T. Beechman and local police officers testified Covington confessed freely.

"Thompson told me the drivers were planning to lynch the n----r who stabbed Brown," said the Covington statement. "Some of the fellows said we're going after the n----r and we're going to meet at the river."

Defendants in the Greenville, S. C., lynch trial are leaving the county jail for court.

Covington, according to the testimony, met another defendant, Arthur Fowler, a cab driver with a passenger, and they joined with John Joy and Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, grey-haired, dignified taxi dispatcher.

5-15-47 Thurs.

7520

DENIED ASSAULT

"There was a shotgun in the car Hurd was riding," the Covington statement continued. "We drove to the river and six cabs arrived. Hurd said: 'When we get to the jail I'll do the talking.' Hurd said, 'I know the jailer.'

"We parked near the jail. About 25 drivers went into the jail after the jailer opened the door. When we got upstairs and Griggs (Paul F. Griggs, a defendant) brought out the n----r they placed him in (Woodrow) Clardy's cab. We were the lead car from the jail."

The testimony revealed how Joy blew the horn of his cab, stopped the procession and shouted: "Let's do something before we get to Greenville." Ernest Stokes, another defendant, was said to have conducted the questioning of the Negro on the road about his alleged assault on Brown. 30a

The Negro, according to the statement, denied he assaulted Brown.

Then, according to the confession, Stokes "pulled a knife" on Willie Earle and said: "I want to put some scars on him like he put on Brown." S.C. (Trial)

Clardy was quoted as saying: "If you're going to kill him, get him out of the car." Daily Worker

Red Fleming, another defendant, was quoted as "talking nice to the . . . ." saying 'You don't have long to live and you don't want to die with a lie on your lips."

Testimony revealed Hendrix Rector and Griggs took Earle out of the car and Marvin Flemming started beating Earle on the side of the head with a gun butt. Flemming was quoted as saying: "Let's get it over." New York, NY.

Covington's statement continued: "Hurd shot him while he was on the ground leaning on his arm. Hurd shot him once. He shot him again and asked for another shell and shot him again."

The Covington confession was one of several introduced so far as State's evidence Much of the third day of the trial was taken up with legal arguments between chief defense counsel Thomas A. Woffard admissibility of such evidence, and the State Solicitor over the Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., permitted the jury to hear the confessions. But he pointed out he reserved the right to change his opinion later in the trial.

The amazing fact that the men charged with the lynching are on trial here is seen by local observers as .due .to .nation-wide .protests against failure of law enforcement agencies' failure to take action in the past against such crimes.

The man on the street, however, is laying heavy odds against conviction of any of the thirty-one now on trial. Thurs. 5-15-47

Guilty Verdict Asked By State In Lynch Case

Montgomery Ala.

30a (Trial)

But Prosecutors Fail To Demand Death Penalty ForDefendants

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 20. —(AP)—State prosecutors asked a Greenville County jury today to represent the conscience of South Carolina in convicting 28 white men for the lynching of a Negro—but the state concluded its argument without demanding the death penalty.

Final argument for the state was made jointly by Solicitors Robert Ashmore and Samuel Watt—the latter assigned to prosecute in behalf of the attorney general of South Carolina, John M. Daniel. Defense attorneys told the jury Watt had a record of 471 convictions out of 473 defendants brought to trail.

21 On Murder

Twenty-one of the defendants are charged with murder. They also are charged with being accessory before and after the fact and with conspiracy to commit murder. Seven others were acquitted of murder and accessory after the fact, by a directed verdict, but remain charged with conspiracy and accessory before the fact. Wed. 5-21-47

Defense Attorney Thomas Wofford, in conclusion, reminded the jury "suspicion, no matter how great, is not sufficient to base a verdict of guilty," and declared, "you are the sole judges of the facts and of the credibility of the witnesses.

Wofford assailed participation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the lynch probe. "We get along pretty well down here until they start interfering with us from Washington and the North. "If they would sympathize with us instead of criticize us, we might get along toward recovering from the time they laid waste to this country 75 years ago," he said.

Wofford accused the FBI of being afflicted with "meddler's itch," and cried "there's no cure for it, except a verdict by jury of this kind to acquit these boys and show them it's no use meddling in Greenville County."

Watt, summing up the state's case, charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the brutal slaying of Negro Willie Earle last Feb. 17, declared:

"It's your town. It's your county." Do you approve of these things? If you do, if you start to condone this sort of thing, you'll need more than the F.B.I. and the state constabulary to protect you." Advertiser

The case is expected to reach the jury tomorrow afternoon.

Watt said the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the state constabulary, and local police officers had been criticized unmercifully by the defense, although they denied coercion in obtaining statements from 26 self-acknowledged members of the lynch-mob. Defending the officers, Watt declared:

"They are all that stand between you law-abiding citizens and those who go into a jail at night time and get a Negro out and kill him." 5-21-47

Unfair Description

Constitution

Editor Constitution: Your paper published an article entitled "Confessions Mark Opening of 31-Cabbie Lynch Trial." 30a

The implications incorporated in this article were of such a nature as to give the impression that all the so-called "cabbies" of Greenville, S. C., are people of the lowest caliber who can still be termed as human beings. Such references as to their personal appearances and dress were of no importance in the reporting of the actual facts. Atlanta, Ga

Would you like to be described in a newspaper article as being pregnant? It would be just as appropriate as the description of the wife of one of the defendants.

All of these little things add up to show that is not only a reflection on the people to whom it referred but also upon your newspaper. 5-23-47

My home is in Union, S. C., and I am the son of a lawyer of the same town. My life has been spent mostly on a small farm. There we learned the outlook which cannot be attained by those other than farmers. A farmer can look on the upper caste and lower caste of the city without taking sides. I have learned that there are good, honest, and respectable people in every walk of life. No class is entirely good nor are they all bad. I do not defend the unlawful action that these taxi-drivers committed but I say do not print degrading impressions of their livelihood.

BARHAM F. KENNEDY.

Atlanta.

'CONFESSIONS' GIVE LYNCHING DETAILS

Times

New York, N.Y.

Tell of How Man in Mob Used Shotgun to Deliver Coup de Grace to Carolina Negro

30a

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 14—Three written statements in which white men described for the first time in Southern court history how other white men actually lynched a Negro were read to the jury today in the trial of thirty-one men of this community.

The crowd which filled the courtroom and included 100 Negroes in the balcony, heard details of how a Negro was punched and clubbed and then given the coup de grace with a shotgun by a man who asked for a third shell after pumping two shots into the victim's head. Times 5-15-47

Among those who heard the recitals were wives of defendants who sat, some of them, with children in their laps or toddling at their feet.

As was the case on the second day of the trial yesterday, when presentation of evidence began, the jury was paraded in and out of the courtroom to protect it from inflammatory statements.

This precaution was occaasioned by defense charges that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had adopted Trojan Horse tactics of "importing" agents who were Southerners to induce other Southerners to "talk on the basis of a common "sympathy" in the attitude of race prejudice. 30a

Times

100-Year-Old Decision Cited

The defense also introduced a 100-year-old court decision in an effort to rule out key evidence supporting the conspiracy count in the indictment. This count is generally regarded as and on which the jury conceivably could compromise. Conspiracy is a common law misdemeanor punishable under state statutes by imprisonment up to ten years.

Defense counsel continued to attack the written statements of their clients on the ground they had been made under threats and intimidation. S. C. (Trial)

The prosecution countered by presenting evidence that one of the defendants had sat alone in the police station and typed out his version of the lynching.

Twenty-three witnesses and six written statements by defendants were offered today by the prosecution. Written into the record was a picture of taxicab drivers, bent upon avenging an attack by a Negro on another taxicab driver, cruising about this textile city's streets in the pre-dawn hours to assemble the lynching mob.

Through telephone calls and whispered talks at taxi stands, urgings went out to fuel vehicles and obtain arms, according to the statements, and an arsenal of several shotguns was assembled.

One of the statements told of how two taxi drivers discussed plans for the lynching in a cab carrying a Negro passenger.

New York, N.Y.

Most of Defendants Named

Three of the six statements read today described the death of the Negro mob victim. Virtually all of the defendants had been named by the time reading of the six statements was completed.

The prosecution has statements made by twenty-six of the defendants, all except three of whom are local taxi drivers.

Covered in the statements is the story of how Willie Earle, Negro arrested for the stabbing of T. W. Brown, a taxi driver, was taken from neighboring Pickens County jail house at Pickens Feb. 17 and killed on a country road.

Five hours after the lynching the taxi driver died of his wounds.

When the lynching was over, according to the prosecution's evidence, members of the mob turned against one another.

The statements were obtained at the police station here after scenes in which prisoners demanded to know what other prisoners had said about them. Three of the prisoners allegedly spent several hours identifying a parade of suspects as members of the mob.

Defense attacks on the validity and admissability of the statements were led by Thomas Wofford and Benjamin A. Bolt, Rainbow Division veterans of World War I and battlefield friend of Father Duffy, famous Catholic chaplain of New York's "fighting Sixty-ninth" Infantry Regiment. Both are Greenville attorneys.

Heard "Two or Three Shots"

The first statement read today was that of James Truman Quantrell, who said that at the murder scene he heard two or three shots but did not see them fired.

His statement was followed by that of Hubert Carter. He said he questioned the victim about the stabbing of the taxi driver and heard the death shots.

The third statement read was that of Charles M. Civington, who purportedly said he heard Ernest Stokes, a defendant, say he wanted to put on the Negro the same scars "that he put on Brown."

The statement declared that Marvin Fleming, a defendant, "got into the front seat and talked nice to the nigger."

It proceeded: Times.

"He told the nigger he didn't have long to live and that he shouldn't want to die with a lie in his heart. The nigger confessed and said he stabbed Mr. Brown." Times 5-15-47

Accused as User of Gun

The statement then said that Hendrix Rector and Paul Griggs, defendants, knocked Earle to the ground and that Fleming beat him in the head with a shotgun.

It added that Roosevelt Carlos Hurd Jr., a defendant, said, "Give me that gun" and that Hurd shot Earle twice and then "asked for another shell, but nobody gave it to him."

The fourth statement was by Walter T. Crawford, which also described Hurd as the man who shot Earle.

Lynch Trouble

Daily World

30a

WHATEVER THE DISPOSITION of the hearing against 31 white men defendants at the Greenville, S. C. lynching trial, a Southern state will have made history by at least bringing before the courts the known and accused monsters of a defenseless colored man. There was considerable speculation when the trial started last week and during its early days as to whether a conviction could be squeezed from the all-white jury trying the case. Atlanta Ga

The trouble and expense of trial will do much toward discouraging lynchers, even should a conviction not be forthcoming. The South will and must grow, however, along the lines of guaranteeing conviction for the guilty, regardless of color and circumstance. 5-18-47

STATE COMPLETES ITS LYNCHING CASE

Times

New York, N.Y.

Defense Elicits Statement FBI Was Told by Clark to Check Civil Rights Violations

Times 5-18-47 30a

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 17—The prosecution's case against thirty-one white men on trial here for the lynching of a Negro was completed at 11:35 A. M. today after a week of testimony unprecedented in the history of the South.

Five minutes earlier the defense brought from a prosecution witness testimony that Tom C. Clark, Attorney General of the United States, instructed agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter the case when it first broke to check on possible violations of Federal civil rights statutes.

The witness was J. C. Bills, FBI agent in charge of the central office at Charlotte, N. C.

He was asked if any evidence of violations of Federal civil rights laws had been uncovered, but he was not permitted to answer. The trial judge ruled that such testimony was not relevant in a State proceeding.

Rumors of Federal Action

There have been rumors that Federal agencies might bring civil rights actions against some or all of the defendants accused of forcibly taking their Negro victim from jail and possibly against the elderly jail-keeper who surrendered him without physical protest and has insisted that he is unable to identify any members of the mob.

Defense attorneys have attacked throughout the trial the fact that agents of the National Government took a major part in preparing a criminal case for a state, the residents of which largely live in the memory of John C. Calhoun's utterances on the controversial doctrine of state's rights.

Testimony at the trial has shown that ten FBI agents helped prepare the state's case and obtained virtually all of the statements which twenty-six of the defendants allegedly made.

For an hour and ten minutes after the state had rested the four defense attorneys argued motions for directed verdicts of acquittal for nine of the defendants and dismissal of various parts of the four-count murder indictment against all the others.

Plot Charge Is Target

The defense concentrated its arguments on the admittedly moot question of whether a conspiracy had been proven. They contended that the statements by defendants could be applied only against those who had made them and further argued that the statements were not properly admissible to prove a conspiracy on the ground that any conspiracy ended on their arrest and the statements were made afterward.

Presiding Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., who held a number of decisions in law in abeyance while the state was presenting its case, remarked yesterday, that on the subject of the proving of conspiracy "There's a grave doubt in my mind."

The prosecution argued today only one motion, which was described to the court as "of the utmost importance." Solicitor Sam R. Watt asked that the court allow in evidence the photographs of the body of Willie Earle, the Negro lynching victim who was cut with a knife and shot twice with a shotgun Feb. 17.

Thomas Wofford, defense attorney, opposed the introduction of the photographs on the grounds that they were "highly prejudicial" and "don't prove a thing except the nigger is dead and everybody knows that."

In the midst of arguments on defense motions, Judge Martin adjourned court until Monday.

Five Acquittals Surmised

From the nature of the debate it appeared fairly likely that verdicts of acquittal might be directed for the five defendants who did not make statements, since the court had ruled that the statements of co-defendants could not be applied against these five.

After adjournment solicitor Watt and three FBI agents met Gov. J. Strom Thurmond, who was in town to make an address. When the lynching became known the Governor took immediate steps for prosecution of those in the mob.

Bills, the final prosecution witness, said he ordered his aides into the case when it broke and was here for two days during the investigation. New York, N.Y.

Mr. Wofford, in cross-examination, asked, "You don't know any more about this case than J. Edgar Hoover, do you?" Bills said that was true and Mr. Wofford asked him who had assigned him to the case.

The witness said he was assigned by the Attorney General and Mr. Wofford asked him how he knew that.

"Investigations of this type are instructed only by authority of the Attorney General," was the reply.

"What do you mean by type of inquiry?" Times

"A violation of civil rights statutes. We were looking for violations of civil rights."

"Did you find any?"

At this point the Court ruled there could be no answer and Mr. Wofford wheeled to the witness and said, "By Attorney General you mean Mr. Tom Clark from Texas, don't you, Mr. Clark of Texas?" 5-18-47

Defense motions asked directed verdicts of acquittal for Woodrow Wilson Clardy, Ernest Stokes, Earl Martin, Samuel D. Stewart and Vardry Norris, the five who never made statements. They also asked acquittal verdicts for W. D. Oakley, Howard Thompson, Willie Eugene Bishop and John B. Marchant on the grounds they were never a part of the mob when the Negro was slain and that conspiracy had not been proven against them.

South Carolina (Trial)

7521

30a S.C. (Trial)

Spectators at the Greenville, S. C., lynch trial wait for court to a

Alleged "Trigger Man" Says It Was So Horrible He Couldn't Look

30a Fri 5-16-47

By United Press

GREENVILLE, S. C.

Stocky Roosevelt C. Hurd, named by seven defendants as the ring-leader and executioner in the mob that lynched Willie Earle, denied that he fired the fatal shots and another accused lyncher said that more than one gunman blasted the Negro's body.

Jesse Lee Sammons' statement, read at the mass trial of 31 men, was the first to suggest that anyone other than Hurd had taken part in the shooting that finished off Earle after he had been knifed and clubbed into semi-consciousness. He did not name Hurd or any other defendant as trigger-man but said "I know that more than one man shot the Negro."

Hurd's own statement admitted only that he had gone along on the party which he said became so distasteful to him that "when I seen they were going to kill the Negro, I just turned around, because I didn't want to see it happen."

Sound of Cutting Cloth and Flesh

Sammons gave the most gory picture to date of the Negro's lynching by a mob inflamed by alcohol and a desire to avenge the stabbing of a taxi driver who had worked with most of the cabbie defendants.

Sammons said that he saw Hendrix Rector, one of the defendants, holding a knife and although he did not actually see him slash Earle "I could hear the cutting of cloth and flesh."

"I heard nothing from the Negro," Sammons' statement read. "Then a fleshy man who was drunk shot him once with the single barrel gun and begged for more shells."

Sammons added that he had ridden to the lynch scene with "the leader" and sat in the back seat next to Earle. The man in the middle of the front seat had a shot gun and "was drinking heavy," Sammons said. Earlier testimony had identified Hurd as the man in the middle in the front seat.

Hurd Said He Was Just One of the Mob

Hurd's own statement, read as the defendant blinked through his glasses were he sat in the crowded prisoners' dock, admitted only that he had attended the lynching proceedings, swept along by the temper of the mob.

His statement said that he was at the bus station when W. W. Clardy, another defendant, stopped by and asked him to go to the cab office. When he got there he found a group of drivers talking about going to Pickens. PM

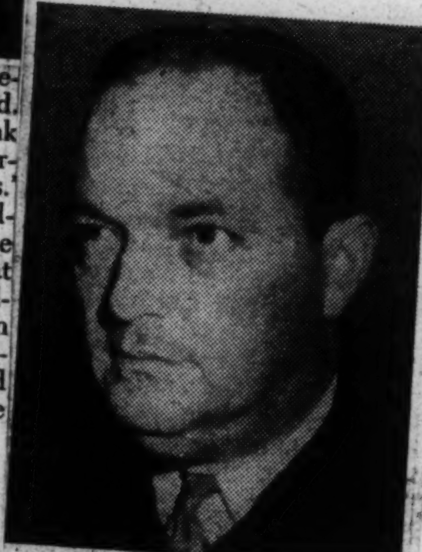
"All of us questioned the Negro and he admitted cutting Mr. Brown," Hurd's statement continued. Ernest Stokes, the statement said, told the Negro, "We've brought you out here to kill you."

'I Know What A Mistake I Made'

Then, Hurd said, the lynchers dragged the Negro out of the car and "everybody started beating him. Somebody fired the gun two or three times—I don't know who fired the gun." Then, he added, he turned his head to avoid seeing the execution. Fri 5-16-47

FBI agent Tullie D. Easterling testified that Hurd at first denied any knowledge of the lynching. After getting the statement off his chest, Hurd remarked, "I feel better now—I know what a mistake I made," Easterling testified.

Roosevelt C. Hurd
Made A 'Mistake'



Judge J. M. Martin
Sits in Lynch Trial

More Educators Testify for Sweatt

By United Press

AUSTIN, Tex.

Deans of two large universities testified in support of the demand of Heman Marion Sweatt, Negro postman from Houston, that he be admitted to the University of Texas Law School despite the State's segregation laws.

The visiting educators were Dean Earl G. Harrison of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Dean Charles G. Thompson of the Graduate School of Howard University, Washington.

"The Negro has been seriously disadvantaged" in educational facilities in Texas, Dr. Thompson said.

Dr. Harrison said the Negro would not get the cross-section of ideas in a community that a white student would get.

PM New York, N.Y. Thursday 5-15-47

But Greenville Judge May Throw Them All Out, Directing Verdict

30a) S.C.

By United Press

GREENVILLE, S. C.

The prosecution in the mass lynch trial of 31 white men introduced evidence charging Roosevelt C. Hurd, 41, as the "trigger man" who shot Willie Earle to death after the Negro had been beaten with the butt of the gun and zstabbed with a knife.

The charge was contained in a confession by Charles Maurice Covington, 20-year-old taxicab driver, the third introduced as the State pressed for convictions against e alleged lynchers, 28 of whom e cab drivers in Greenville.

The Covington confession said at another of the men begged rd not to kill Earle until "I put e same scars on him that he put Brown."

T. W. Brown, a Greenville driver, was allegedly slain by Earle in a robbery attempt last February.

Let's Get It Over With

After Earle was beaten, Covington said Hurd told the other men: "Give me the gun; let's get it over with."

Covington said that he rode in the lead cab to the Pickens County jail on Feb. 10 when Earle was removed and slain. Hurd was in the car, he said, quoting him as saying:

"When we get to Pickens I'd do the talking. I know the jailer."

Covington said Hurd carried the shotgun as he strode into the jail with the other men following.

"They placed the Negro in the back of the car," Covington's statement continued.

'You Don't Have Long to Live'

After leaving the town, the party stopped to question Earle on the Saluda Dam. Marvin Flemming, one of the men in the car, told Earle, according to Covington:

"You don't have long to live and you'd better not die with a lie in your heart."

Covington said Earle confessed that he killed Brown, and then they drove on to the lonely site where the lynching took place.

"Hendrix Rector grabbed his belt and pulled him out of the cab," Covington said. Thurs, 5-15-47

"Ector and Paul F. Griggs hit him with their fists and Flemming beat the side of his head in with the shot gun butt. The Negro was leaning on his elbow when Hurd shot him once, reloaded and shot again."

Another member of the party, Walter Towers Crawford, 32, said he bought a fifth of whiskey and "some of us took a drink."

Trial May End Up With No Testimony

Defense counsel began a prolonged battle to prevent the reading of additional confessions. Twenty-six of the 31 men charged with murder have confessed that they took part in the pre-dawn lynchings.

Judge Martin overruled defense objections to the confessions, then leaned forward and announced that he may throw them out later.

"If we end up with no testimony, I will direct the verdict," Martin added.

OWN WORDS USED AGAINST THE MOB IN LYNCHING TRIAL

DEFENDANTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA MASS LYNCHING TRIAL

Several of the thirty-one men charged with murder are escorted from the jail in Greenville to automobiles that took them to the county court yesterday.

Associated Press Wirephoto

Wed. 5-14-47

Jury Hears First of 26 Alleged Statements Admitting Part in Taking Negro From Jail

Wed. 5-14-47

WRANGLING MARKS CASE

Defense for 31 Carolina Taxi Drivers Fights to Win Right to Argue Provocation

Times

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 13—Testimony believed to be unprecedented in the history of Southern lynching cases, including a written statement purporting to be a white man's admission he had joined others in forcibly taking a Negro from a jailhouse "for the purpose of killing him," was spread upon the county court record here today.

The spectacle of white men in the South being tried principally upon their own alleged statements that they had taken the law into their hands against a Negro developed late this afternoon through two state witnesses, a sheriff and an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In the case of thirty-one white taxicab drivers who are on trial on lynching charges.

Defense counsel spent most of of the day fighting for permission to ask questions aimed at showing that the victim of the lynching had enraged the accused by bringing about the death of a white taxi driver who was their friend.

Hours of Legal Wrangling

Hours were spent in wrangling by attorneys over the admissibility of defense questions on the subject of the death of the white man and time and, again the jury was ordered from the court room to prevent its members from hearing anything that might tend to inflame their feelings in view of the racial problem in this region.

Although alleged statements by the defendants are the crux of the State's case and frequently refer to the Negro's attack on the white man, the prosecution battled to block the defense tactics on the ground that there was no justification for a lynching and sought to keep out questioning of witnesses that might provide a basis for the defense to argue the issue to the jury.

When today's session ended opposing counsel appeared to have met with about equal success in the controversy. 30a

The court ruled that the prosecution at one stage had inadvertently "lowered the bars" and permitted one witness to refer to the Negro's attack on the white man. But in the same ruling the court warned the defense that the testimony of the witness on this point "cannot at any time be the subject of any kind of comment or summing up." S. C. Chron.

The evidence this afternoon included a description of the knife and shotgun wounds inflicted upon the lynching victim. A bailiff stood before the jury while a physician outlined upon him the marks made by the slayers.

Times.

Counter Move by Defense

Immediately after this scene the defense sought to introduce a description of the wounds of the slain taxi driver. New York Times

The afternoon also brought a conflict among counsel over the presence at the defense table of the white-haired widow of the slain taxi driver. She wore a black dress, hat and veil.

And the afternoon session had as a witness the county jailer, who gave up custody of the Negro to the mob. He insisted in his testimony that he could not recall the faces of any of the men who knocked at his door, waited in his house while he dressed and accompanied him to an upper floor to have him unlock the cell containing the Negro.

He said he made sure he had locked the cell before he went downstairs to see the lynchers drive away.

The first of the alleged defendant statements to be introduced was that of Willie Eugene Bishop. It was read to the jury by Solicitor Sam R. Watt, prosecutor for seventeen years in near-by Spartanburg, who was brought into the case at the instance of the Governor because of his outstanding record for securing convictions. Wed. 5-14-47

The alleged statement described Bishop as 27 years old, possessor of a seventh grade education and a taxicab driver for seven years.

He allegedly admitted that on Monday, Feb. 17, at 3 A. M., he was at a taxicab stand behind the court building here when he heard a group of taxi drivers "talking about getting the Nigger who had cut Mr. Brown the day before."

Statements Laid to 26

Bishop and twenty-five of the other defendants are alleged to have made statements admitting that they took part in seizing Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro, at neighboring Pickens County jail house, conducting him to a near-by country road and killing him.

Earle had been arested the day before as a suspect in the stabbing and robbery of T. W. Brown, a Greenville taxicab driver. About five hours after Earle's body was found Brown died of his wounds.

Bishop's alleged statement said that Walter Oakley, part owner of a lunch room frequented by the taxi drivers, had asked him to let him know if a crowd went "to get the Negro."

It added that Bishop called Oakley at him room, and Oakley, at first doubting the report, stated that he would be "right down."

The statement allegedly has Bishop placing at the scene of the

all break the following defend

John C. Joy, Jeremiah McNeeley, Paul F. Griggs Jr., Howard Thompson, James Forrester, Marvin Fleming, Sam Stewart and Hendrix Rector.

Rector has been described as the man who allegedly mutilated the Negro with a knife.

After the deliverance at the jail, the alleged statement said, Bishop lost the convoy and in efforts to find it his car broke down and he and his passengers walked to a near-by town and got a ride back to Greenville.

Denies Seeing Mob Victim

The statement closed as follows:

"I did not see the convoy after we left Easley. I don't know where they went or what happened. I at no time saw the Negro. We wetn to Pickens for the purpose of getting him and taking him out and killing him."

Defense counsel objected to the statement being admitted and also asked that it be binding only on the man who allegedly made it.

Judge J. Robert Martin Jr. admitted the statement and reserved decision on the other point.

The statement had been introduced through the examination of Sheriff R. H. Bearden, who had witnessed it, and Tullis Easterland, FBI resident agent, who wrote it down and then had Bishop initial each page and sign it. 30a

Defense counsel indicated that they would attack the statements on the ground that they had been "extorted" after a day and night of continuous questioning and on "promises" that the defendants would never be convicted in local court. Wed. 5-14-47

Unfair Description

Constitution

Editor Constitution. Your paper published an article entitled "Confessions Mark Opening of 31-Cabbie Lynch Trial." 30a S. C.

The implications incorporated in this article were of such a nature as to give the impression that all the so-called "cabbies" of Greenville, S. C., are people of the lowest caliber who can still be termed as human beings. Such references as to their personal appearances and dress were of no importance in the reporting of the actual facts. Atlanta, Ga.

Would you like to be described in a newspaper article as being pregnant? It would be just as appropriate as the description of the wife of one of the defendants.

All of these little things add up to show that is not only a reflection on the people to whom it referred but also upon your newspaper.

My home is in Union, S. C., and I am the son of a lawyer of the same town. My life has been spent mostly on a small farm. There we learned the outlook which cannot be attained by those other than farmers. A farmer can look on the upper caste and lower caste of the city without taking sides. I have learned that there are good, honest, and respectable people in every walk of life. No class is entirely good nor are they all bad. I do not defend the unlawful action that these taxi-drivers committed but I say do not print degrading impressions of their livelihood.

BARHAM F. KENNEDY.

Atlanta.

Const. 5-23-47

THE FAILURE AT GREENVILLE

St. Louis Argus St. Louis, Mo.

What was an opportunity to convince the world that the courts of the South can render justice for all men, failed when the jury in Greenville, S. C., freed 28 men who had been identified and themselves confessed in the brutal lynching of Willie Earle, a Negro. It shattered the faith of men in the protection of the law in the South.

Fri. 5-23-47

The people of South Carolina, by their decision, have handicapped a primary force in Democratic government-law. Without strong and just law, a citizen cannot be assured of protection of the right which the Constitution guarantees him. It thus weakens the very fibers of the government and leaves it open to attack by crackpots and demagogues.

Good people, who believe in law and order, tremble over the results of the Greenville mockery. Although the decision was made by a people steeped in the tradition of race bigotry, after a passionate appeal to such baser ideals, they cannot avoid the stain of guilt of ignoring the truth, to maintain their god of hate and prejudice on his ugly and ignoble shrine.

Fri. 5-23-47

Twelve jurors, who had the opportunity to lift the people of the South from the unfavorable opinions of thinking people, have not only substantiated these adverse reactions, but have given their people a tremendous setback. The forces of violence and lawlessness have been extended a hand of approval and encouragement. The good people who have been striving sincerely to build a new democracy in the South have, in the words of the defense attorney, been told that "such meddling in the affairs of the South" will never succeed.

Progress Against Mob Lawlessness

Richmond Times-Dispatch

DEFINITE progress in breaking up mob lawlessness is being made, despite the action of the Greenville, S. C., jury last week in acquitting more than a score of self-confessed lynchers. Authorities in three Southern States deserve praise for the steps they have taken in that direction during recent days. 30a S.C. (Tr-Results)

In Arkansas, State troopers kept a mob away from **WILLIAM L. DUKES**, charged with a rape-slaying, and took him to a secret prison, presumed to be in Little Rock. Tues. 5-27-47

In North Carolina, **BILLIE SIMMONS** was locked in Central Prison at Raleigh, after he had been charged with committing a rape at a point 50 miles away. The authorities rushed him to the capital city, where he would be out of reach.

In South Carolina—where the State authorities and the Greenville judge, as contrasted with the Greenville jury, gave a superlative example of fairness last week—**WILLIE POOLER** has just been taken from Darlington to the State Penitentiary at Columbia, after being charged with rape.

These three cases are in addition to the near-lynching in North Carolina, which occurred the other day when a mob seized **GODWIN BUSH**, who was being held in jail. **BUSH** escaped from the mob and hid in the woods. He finally surrendered to the FBI, and is now in Central Prison at Raleigh.

The above-mentioned four cases afford ground for encouragement. They show that authorities of Southern States and localities are learning how to thwart mobs bent on murder. The North Carolina jailer who delivered **BUSH** into the hands of the mob from which **BUSH** managed to escape, and the South Carolina jailer who did likewise last February, thus making possible the lynching of **WILLIE EARLE**, with the Greenville trial as a sequel, deserve no credit. Both officers were entirely too complacent in the face of mob action. But it is becoming increasingly evident that other sheriffs and jailers are willing to protect their prisoners, at some risk to themselves. Such a trend can mean much in the breaking up of mob rule. Tues. 5-27-47

All this is part of the evolutionary process which in one generation has reduced the annual lynching total for the nation by 90 to 95 per cent, and which is the outgrowth of an aroused public opinion. We have reached the point where lynching seems to be approaching extinction, thanks to the vigorous action of State and local officers, and to the rising realization of the people in States which heretofore have tolerated these savageries that lynch law is unworthy of a civilized nation, and that it must be stopped.

A SOUTHERNER ON LYNCHING

Sun. 6-1-47

To the Editor of The News-Age-Herald:

B'ham. Ala. News

As an Alabamian and a Southerner, I wish to raise my voice in protest to the recent lynching and the abortive attempt of justice at Greenville, S. C. These actions resemble those of Hitler's Gestapo, and I am confident that all believers in true democracy lament such cowardly wrongdoings as being a disgrace to our country. 30a) (Tr-Results)

I have written to members of the Alabama delegation in Congress and requested that they take the lead in sponsoring a bill which will provide for federal prosecution in cases of lynching. It is my hope that the people of Alabama will make similar requests to our delegation in Congress. Sun. 6-1-47

If the tom-tom beaters of hate, prejudice and violence think that they are representative of all Southern people, they are sadly mistaken. There are many of us Southerners who have faith in the equality of men, regardless of race, creed or color. We shall continue to oppose the various forms of discrimination which are so prevalent, not only in the South, but all over America. Our country is in great need of self-improvement before it can stand before the world as a worthy example and leader of democracy. EDMUND WELCH.

International Young Men's Christian Association College, Springfield, Mass.

Mob Rule

30a S.C. (T-Results)

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Editor Constitution: This morning after hearing the news of the outcome of the trial in Greenville, S. C., I wonder what our Lady of Liberty is thinking about. We have just fought the most expensive war in history, both in lives and money, to rid the world of injustice and to give people freedom from fear, but do such things as this and the murder in Georgia bring about this freedom?

I am a Southerner with all the beliefs in our traditions, but I also believe in justice. Shall we in the South, because of our dislike for what we call Northern interference, let things such as this occur here? God forbid! Let our good citizens arise and stamp out mob rule before all of us are ruled by a mob. ANNIE WARD.

Shawmut, Ala. Sat. 5-31-47

7522

The Verdict at Greenville

News & Courier

To The News and Courier:

The enclosed very interesting article was in the Tampa Tribune. I am sending it on to you and am wondering if you care to copy it.

MILES P. McSWEENEY.

Palmetto, Fla.

The verdict of the South Carolina jury in that lynch trial was what could be expected. That a trial was held at all is a credit to South Carolina. Charleston, S. C.

I once read on a monument in Newberry, S. C., cemetery the story of an outrage of the Reconstruction days. After the Appomattox surrender a soldier of the Southern army was returning to his Texas home. In the depot at Newberry he saw some negro soldiers mistreating a white woman. He remonstrated and for this was court-martialed and denied defense or a chance to communicate with his friends. He was sentenced to be shot at sunrise the next morning, which sentence was carried out.

A resident of Newberry told me the rest of the story, of how his sister came later to claim his body, but the citizens of Newberry begged her to let it remain, promising to erect a monument over his grave telling the story of his marytrdom, which they did. Thur. 5-29-47

Because South Carolina led in secession, authorities in control of the victorious army undertook to punish her by the indignity of policing the whole state with negro troops. Political adventurers from the North, by disfranchising the whites, got themselves elected to public office where they squandered the people's money. Parents in South Carolina taught their children and grandchildren to hate Republicans and negroes. It was so in 1928 that the vote of the state went eight to one for Smith.

ERNEST B. SIMMONS.

To The News and Courier:

It is striking to note in the instances of the last several cases of rape which have occurred in South Carolina, how promptly agents of the FBI have gathered at the scene, coming in from their headquarters in North Carolina and Georgia. Apparently we lack such headquarters in South Carolina for this agency.

Why is this the case? Why is there not set up in this state a station, fully staffed, so that when a rape occurs, and the indignant members of the victim's family begin to mutter, the officers can reach the scene with a minimum of delay, and so afford the rapist more complete protection than he can expect now? Why should the rapists of North Carolina and Georgia be able to rape with more impunity than those of this state? Why, when a crime of this nature occurs, should the criminal's "civic rights" be not as completely free from violation in this state as those of his brother criminals in the states on either side of us? Should the rapists of this state not have the same degree of protection in their "civic rights" as that offered by the FBI in our sister states? These questions demand an immediate answer. Thur. 5-29-47

It is worthy of note that the investigation to which this agency devotes itself so promptly and effectively is, admittedly, not concerned with the question of whether the crime occurred, or about the condition of the victim, or whether she will live, or such trivial detail, but centers itself immediately and exclusively upon the more vital question of whether the rapist's "civic rights" have been violated. No thought or concern for the victim, but let's see that the criminal's "civic rights" are not violated. Let the victim die, let her live to endure long years of mortification, but, for God's sake, don't let the attacker's "civic rights" be violated!

Sunday night, when a confessed rapist was apprehended in Darlington, while there was yet no outbreak of violence, the atmosphere was such that it was actually necessary to spirit the criminal off to Columbia, lest his "civic rights" be violated. The realization that such a state of affairs can actually exist in South Carolina is, of course, repugnant to any advocate of "civic rights", who feels that such discrimination should not be imposed upon an oppressed minority, whose "civic right" to rape should be protected just as effectively here as in North Carolina or Georgia.

Something must be done. We demand that the FBI move in and establish those rights, so that the world may know that a rapist's "civic right" to rape is as sacredly preserved here in South Carolina as in any state in the union.

Thur. 5-29-47 OBSERVER.

Charleston.

This Morning

Fla. Times-Union

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES

"Thou shalt not kill...."

Thur. 5-29-47

It is the law of God. It is also the law of South Carolina. Those accused of breaking it are supposed to be tried by a jury of their peers. Apparently the jurors at Greenville last week were just that, peers of the defendants in disregard of God's law and man's. They have made a hissing sound of South Carolina's great name all over the world, with last Sunday's spectacle of British writers calling on Walter Winchell to stop talking about Palestine so long as his country has South Carolina.

It isn't fair. South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia are the three Southern States with fewest lynchings. In the whole period from 1882 through 1944, according to Tuskegee Institute records, South Carolina was the scene of 159. In Mississippi there were 532, in Georgia 521, Texas 489, Louisiana 390, Alabama 346, Arkansas 285, Florida 280 and Tennessee 250. In recent years there had been no lynchings at all in South Carolina.

What is much more, South Carolina had arrested the men accused, put them on trial in sincerity and zeal. That was history-making. The State was being lauded everywhere. If the 12 men on the Greenville jury had brought in a different verdict the whole world would be naming the State now for courage and light.

It isn't fair to the South, either, or the United States, to have the British and others, including the Russians, thinking there is a lynch terrorism in America comparable to the violence in Palestine, and worse. Time Magazine is to blame in part. Two years ago it published hugely erroneous figures on total lynchings since the century's turn and, after compounding the fault by making it seem that the annual number now is their average of about 100 a year for the whole period, refused to correct publicly an error it privately admitted. The truth is that, even with the recent murders in Georgia and South Carolina, lynching is almost extinct now in America. Thur. 5-29-47

The total in 1900 was 115, in 1901 130. Ten years later the number had decreased but was still tragically large—76 in 1910, and 67 in 1911. But in recent years the total has become so small that lynching as an institution may be said to have become extinct—three in 1943, two in 1944, only one in all of 1945. In 1946, true, there were six, suggesting need of vigilance, but that is a far cry from days when there were more than a hundred.

Why did those 12 men at Greenville turn in a verdict which they knew to be a lie? What persuaded them to flaunt the law of God and man? In cool retrospect, we should examine their minds, and hearts and souls. Some, perhaps, believed in lynching. All, undoubtedly, were influenced, as would any people, by appeals against "outside interference." Some must have felt that even though punishment was due it was too severe. But I believe the ruling motive was fear. I believe those jurors were simply afraid to face living in a community where they had condemned 28 neighbors to die for killing a negro.

Given another chance, South Carolina could succeed in the great history she was intent on making, I believe, with a simple change of venue. The sentiment of the State as a whole, I believe, was for punishment. Jurors anywhere but right in the community would have reflected it.

There was nothing wrong with the law in South Carolina, or the prosecution of the law. The trouble was with local public opinion.

The real solution will be served now if South Carolina is praised for what it tried to do, not pilloried because 12 men in Greenville were afraid. There is a decency in South Carolina that comes not only of increasing conscience but also of pride in great history and men.

In that decency a very real public opinion has been created against mob murder. It has almost extinguished the thing and was en route to something history-making at Greenville against this single recurrence. Thur. 5-29-47

The Verdict at Greenville

30a S.C. [illegible]

To The News and Courier:
News & Courier

I have read so much about the Greenville lynching and so many different ideas of others on the subject, I would like to add mine. First, I do not believe in lynching. I do believe if and when such crimes as Willie Earle committed and when negroes rape white women, if the courts would speed up their trial and not hamper them the people would not resort to lynching so quickly. Charleston, S.C.

In cases as above mentioned the culprit should be tried inside of 30 days. I also think our method of carrying out our executions is all wrong. I advocate a portable electric chair and when a person is electrocuted it should be as near the scene of his or her crime as possible to have it, and it should be in full view of all who care to see it. That, perhaps, would be a good lesson for those who might later do the same thing. Sat. 5-31-47

As it is now, when one is convicted and put to death, very few know anything about it, especially if its a negro. Some time ago a negro woman here was put to death in Columbia and now very often I am asked what they did with her. At present it has the same effect on them as one of them moving to New York. Sat. 5-31-47

JOHN W. KING.

Lake City.

Greenville Case Again

By John Temple Graves

News & Courier

"Thou shalt not kill . . ."

30a S.C. [illegible]

It is the law of God. It is also the law of South Carolina. Those accused of breaking it are supposed to be tried by a jury of their peers. Apparently the jurors at Greenville last week were just that, peers of the defendants in disregard of God's law and man's. They have made a hissing sound of South Carolina's great name all over the world, with last Sunday's spectacle of British writers calling on Walter Winchell to stop talking about Palestine so long as his country has South Carolina. Charleston, S.C.

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What is much more, South Carolina had arrested the men accused, put them on trial in sincerity and zeal. That was history-making. The state was being lauded everywhere. If the 12 men on the Greenville jury had brought in a different verdict the whole world would be naming the state now for courage and light. Wed. 5-28-47

It isn't fair to the South, either, or the United States, to have the British and others, including the Russians, thinking there is a lynch terrorism in America comparable to the violence in Palestine, and worse. Time magazine is to blame in part. Two years ago it published hugely erroneous figures on total lynchings since the century's turn and, after compounding the fault by making it seem that the annual number now is their average of about 100 a year for the whole period, refused to correct publicly an error it privately admitted. The truth is that, even with the recent murders in Georgia and South Carolina, lynching is almost extinct now in America. Wed. 5-28-47

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Given another chance, South Carolina could succeed in the great history she was intent on making, I believe, with a simple change of venue. The sentiment of the state as a whole, I believe, was for punishment. Jurors anywhere but right in the community would have reflected it.

My friend, Hodding Carter, Pultizer prize-winner, believes this means we must have a federal anti-lynch law. It means just the opposite. There was nothing wrong with the law in South Carolina, or the prosecution of the law. The trouble was with local public opinion. That trouble would touch federal juries even more than state ones, for the appeal against "outside interference" would be even more effective.

The real solution will be served now if South Carolina is praised for what it tried to do, not pilloried because of 12 men in Greenville. The real solution was eloquent in that march of Wofford college students at nearby Spartanburg in protest of the jury decision. 'The traditions of the campus they came from rest upon such principles as they believed had been trampled upon," said The Spartanburg Herald, and those of us who have stood beside President Green in the storied auditorium of that century-old institution with portraits of Calhoun and other great men of the old days looming all around, know what The Herald means. There is a decency in South Carolina that comes not only of increasing conscience but also of pride in great history and men. Wed. 5-28-47

In that decency a very real public opinion has been created against mob murder. It has almost extinguished the thing and was en route to something history-making at Greenville against this single recurrence. The opinion of South Carolina is represented by the marchers at Spartanburg.

7522

The Cavalier

By Thomas Lomax Hunter

Richmond Times Dispatch

THE suggestion of Attorney-General Tom Clark that there might be a civil action in the Federal courts against the brutal murderers of Willie Earle is one which seems now about the best course that can be taken. It will at least admit a proper inquest into the actions of these self-confessed assassins whose crime was condoned by a jury of their neighborhood in the pickled-herring farce of a trial recently held at Greenville, S. C. (30a) (Tr-Results)

It would have offended human decency less had South Carolina done as Georgia did who treated the murder of four innocent Negroes as an incident not worthy of judicial notice. Richmond, Va.

As a Virginian I have lived among Negroes since my earliest childhood days. They were my playmates and nurses, and I have a very genuine affection for them. They are a kind and friendly people and I have never had anything but courteous treatment from them. Thur. 5-29-47

The mobs who murder them in the South are not members of what we call "the good people." I would be willing to wager that in all the rabble of scalawags who butchered Willie Earle there was not one who would be received in the home of a South Carolina gentleman. It is a truth that has been wholly overlooked by the Northern critics of the South's racial relations that no Southern white man who is confident that he is just as good as a Negro hates the Negro or wants to lynch him.

Willie Earle was murdered by a band of ruffians who took no pains to ascertain his guilt or innocence. The Georgia thugs who shot four Negroes knew that there was no charge of any sort against at least three of them. They shot them down wantonly because they were afraid that if they did not kill them they would tell who the Crackers were that committed the crime.

THE good Negroes and the good whites of the South understand each other perfectly. We have two kinds of white people in the South and the difference between these two kinds of people is greater than the difference between the good white man and the good Negro.

The people of the North who are intent on inflaming the Negroes of the South against the white people of the South have not the smallest acquaintance with the good white people of the South. The good white people of the South know them for the enemies of good racial relations. Their idea of a Southern white man is a Tobacco-Roader. His position is the equivalent of their social status in the North. He has never seen the inside of a Southern gentleman's house. He was in a measure responsible for the Greenville farce. His desire to meddle with the South's social structure was played upon by the defense attorney in that case. No help or healing can ever come from him. Thur. 5-29-47

Help and healing can come only from an intelligent co-operation of the best Negro citizens of the South and the good Northern and Southern white people. In spite of such hideous tragedies as that at Greenville, and the one in Georgia last Summer, progress is being made and definite accomplishment in the racial relations between Southern whites and Southern Negroes. This accomplishment is as we could expect, the result of the intelligent effort of the better elements of both races.

DIFFICULTIES, when they occur, are the products of the ignorant rabble of both races. The colored gentleman and the white gentleman can do their best work to bring about the solution of a most difficult problem if the rabble of both North and South will keep hands off.

When Mr. Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation he handed to the Southerners, both white and colored, a problem which they have ever since been trying to solve, but if our grandfathers or fathers of that time could come back to us today they would be astounded at the progress we have made. The white mob at Greenville, S. C., is not a reflection upon the Negro in any way. It is a reflection upon that part of the white citizenry of the South which has not been able to keep step with the onward march of our civilization.

The Cavalier

By Thomas Lomax Hunter

(30a)

THE acquittal by a South Carolina jury of the 31 admitted murderers of young Willie Earle, who tortured and slew him brutally, seems to this column a final and conclusive argument for Federal interference in such matters. Georgia has never arrested one of the mob of murderers who slew four innocent Negroes last Summer.

This column has always opposed all suggestions for a Federal antilynch law. In the face of these two farcical exhibitions of Southern judicial inadequacy and impotence, it can no longer sustain this position. Virginia has as excellent antilynch law as Congress could make and we have virtually stamped out lynching in this State.

We must admit that the fair trial of a white mob charged with the lynching of a Negro is a thing not to be thought of. Southern justice stands shamed in the eyes of the world.

The London *Daily Express* commenting on this farce, recently enacted at Greenville, S. C., says:

"Trial by fury remains the unwritten law of America's South."

Under the lines such as "Death Men Go Free—And Hold Carnival," London papers recounted the trial's whole history which, the *Daily Mail* said, revived America's No. 1 problem—that of the attitude of the white to the Negro populations. Richmond Times-Dispatch

Most reports included the verdict at Sylvania, Ga., where Jimmie Brown, a 25-year-old Negro, was convicted of raping a white woman and sentenced to death after the jury debated only three minutes. Richmond, Va. Wed. 5-28-47

IT IS the Southern white man and his justice who stands condemned in the eyes of the world by this travesty on his justice. It is he who organizes the courts, selects the judges and sits upon the juries. He is wholly responsible for the frightful spectacle we have just witnessed at Greenville, S. C. The trial and the lynching are of equal respectability.

I have often observed that trial by jury even when the race problem is not an issue, has become archaic and inept. Its general result is the escape of guilty men. Its members are chosen after a careful examination to prove their ignorance of the matter which they are to determine. We ask an opinion of those men who have sworn that they have no opinion on the most discussed matter in their community. After the jury has been chosen with careful regard to its ignorance, it hears the evidence touching the guilt or innocence of the accused. Duly befuddled and confused, it is now instructed by the judge (I am speaking of trials in our State *nisi prius* courts). It now retires to its jury room to deliberate upon the matter, its foreman bearing in his hand a sheaf of papers in which the indefinable thing, "reasonable doubt" is defined in every possible permutation of phraseology, and great stress laid upon the presumption of the prisoner's innocence. Solemnly abjured that they must resolve every doubt in favor of the accused, there is little to wonder at the large escape of scoundrelism.

IF TO this mumbo-jumbo you add the fact that every juryman takes his seat upon the bench intensely sensible of bias and prejudice, as in the case of the Greenville jury, the result is certain. The men on the Greenville jury knew what was expected of them by the mob in the courthouse. Wed. 5-28-47

Trial by jury, while still an outmoded and archaic piece of judicial machinery, operates much more efficiently in our Federal courts. In these latter courts the judge plays an important part and gives judicial guidance to the poor befuddled no-opinion creatures who fill the jury box. The time has certainly come when our trial-by-jury system, while it is snow in the hat of what we call "criminal lawyers," should be abolished and abated and swept into the dust bin as mere worthless rubbish. We have excellent judges. Why not let them determine the whole matter? Justice cannot be extracted from befuddled ignorance.

The Verdict at Greenville

To The News and Courier:

In last Sunday morning's paper there was a letter printed in The News and Courier, called "United Front." It was one of those letters which tries to defend the indefensible. It implied that South Carolina should never be required to answer for its actions except to the "Deity for the justice dispensed by her law courts."

The question in my mind is, was there any justice in the verdict of the recent lynch trial? I don't believe that even the most naive could say there was any Deity attached. The Greenville jury in effect has declared lynching legal in South Carolina. The trial was not a matter of guilt or innocence of the defendants, but rather would or would not South Carolina enforce the law? Wed. 5-28-47

You cannot defend it on a basis of states rights, because the sovereignty of the state never takes precedence over the sovereignty of a citizen. Willie Earle was a citizen. He was deprived of his constitutional right of trial by jury. When that right is denied, the United States government has not only the right but the duty to intervene. News & Courier

Let not the lynchers be jubilant over their victory. They have yet to face the final and Supreme Judge in whose court there is no easily swayed jury nor glib tongued attorneys. In God's court, justice will be done. Charleston, S.C.

JESS GRIFFIN.

57 Radcliffe Street.

To The News and Courier:

It should be a proper presumption that, since the police and grand jury of Greenville made the unfortunate mistake of arresting and indicting 31 innocent men in connection with the unlawful slaying of the negro, Willie Earl, the former group will now predouble its effort to apprehend the real culprits and turn them over to the judgment of the latter.

LELAND L. WHITE,

(Trustee, Charleston Cetral Labor Union.)

159 Queen street.

To The News and Courier:

Being a mother, I am always interested in the opinions of our youth. I surely do agree with the two students of Charleston College in their article "United Front." South Carolinians should be loyal to their state, and not sell her down the river as so many seem to be doing at present. To me, individuality is one of the finest traits of personality, because I feet it is based on the sincerity of purpose.

Would that South Carolina had more youth in its schools who are not afraid to speak out for the good of their State. We need them badly, since we're tired of the monkeys who delight in aping.

C. V. W.

Charleston. Wed. 5-28-47

To The News and Courier:

Personally, I do not approve of lynching because a lynch mob is as liable to lynch an innocent man as a guilty one. However, it is my opinion that there will always be lynchings in the South until the people gain confidence in the honesty and efficiency of the law.

Regarding the Greenville case, a cab driver was brutally murdered by a slinking cowardly brute. If he were proven guilty in the proper manner he should have been exterminated in the same manner as one would kill a snake.

When the people in Greenville learned that a suspect had been arrested, they knew exactly what the law would do about it: a preliminary hearing, binding over to big court, causing several months delay; clubs and all kinds of advancement societies from Harlem and elsewhere raising sums of money to fight the case; the craftiest legal talent obtainable trying all kinds of tricks to cause delay, with the accused protesting his innocence all the time. If after dragging along several months, the accused were found guilty, there would be the usual appeals, while in the meantime the accused would get religion and then sob sisters all over the country would demand clemency and claim racial prejudice.

Wed. 5-28-47

If after all those methods failed and the accused were finally sentenced to electrocution some time in the distant future, perhaps several other cases of a like nature would have been committed.

People of a low and criminal turn of mind seem to have short memory, and few of them read the newspapers enough to learn when one of their kind has been electrocuted. Therefore a quiet execution, after a long delay, fails to make an impression upon them.

It is my opinion that the law of the South is entirely to blame for all this lynching. There is too much interference with the findings of juries, and in some instances the cause of all that interference and executive clemency has been entirely too obvious. The only way we will ever instill the fear of the law in the criminal mind is: give the accused a fair and swift trial. If found guilty beyond all doubt, he should be publicly hanged with a rope in order that his friends might see and learn just what awaits others of his kind. Premeditated murder and rape are two crimes where the guilty is not deserving of mercy, and none should be shown him.

ROBERT N. GOETHE.

Naval Base.

Wed. 5-28-47

To The News and Courier:

Last Sunday, The News and Courier published a letter labeled "United Front" and signed "Two College of Charleston Students."

The letter deplores "decadent tendencies" in South Carolina and in doing so reveals two of the most dangeous of those tendencies. One is the gradual weakening of respect for law and order. The other is a sort of sectional inferiority complex that resents constructive criticism and stifles Southern progress.

When a mob lynches a negro or college students attack the constitution, the methods are different, but the effect is the same: an undermining of regard for law and legal procedure. Even more dangerous, however, is the blind opposition to all criticism or change. It is one thing to resent unfair chages and quite another to uphold a miscarriage of justice because it is deplored by other American citizens.

The tactics of the defense in the Greenville trial were a disgrace to state and the nation. They would have been disgraceful to every American no matter where they occured. The guilt or innocence of the defendants was never the issue at stake. The defense was based on an appeal to race prejudice and loud harangues against "interference".

The argument proved efective, of course, just as they have proven effective against every effort to shake the South out of its political and economic slumber.

Our Bernard Baruchs go north to fined scope for their talents; our Ellis Arnalls are vilified as "Northern sympathizers" or negro lovers". Meanwhile, some people sit in contented ignorance, look back to glory, and bewail the passing of the good old days.

J. W. CABANISS.

Charleston. Wed. 5-28-47

To The News and Courier:

It seems as in the past few days some people from other states, beyond the Mason-Dixon line, have been commenting on the Greenville lynch case.

After a little research, I came upon a little article which might be of some interest to our Northern friends, and at this point I would like to say if they want to continue to comment, I would first like them to read the following paragraph:

"In 1912 a negro who had killed a special policeman was burned to death by a mob at Coatsville, Penn. Fourteen of the alleged lynchers were indicted, seven of them were tried and the evidence against them appeared to be conclusive, but all seven were found not guilty by the jury, and the prosecuting attorney thereupon asked for dismissal of seven cases."

The above paragraph was extracted from "American State Government," by Mathews—page 425.

At this point I would like to leave these so called "critics" with a little reminder. The same "mad dog" that bit in Greenville, S. C., also exercised his jaws in Coatsville, Penn.

PAUL J. ECONOMY.

The Citadel.

To The News and Courier:

Compared to other parts of the country the South is so well-behaved that commentators and the outside press speak of "gansterism in the South" in a tone of shocked surprise. And so it should be.

The dreadful crimes of the North, middle West and West are reported on the increase, gangsters, gunmen, paid political killers, brutes who murder women and little children, street brawls; the list is endless and of course includes lynchings. Ours are so few by comparison; but even so, we are aroused to protest the delaying tactics of some of our lawyers and we take court action even when there is the element of summary justice. It is safe to say that a Capone here would have been punished for something more than tax evasions.

Reconstruction was the brainchild of malice; planned for the disruption and desolation of the South. Lynching was a necessity under its conditions as the nearest approach to justice an innocent people could achieve under the corrupt federal government of that day.

The 14th amendment was the illegal product of a corrupt administration. Since it is null, void and unconstitutional anyone planning to use it as an argument for civil rights must be prepared to duck this boomerang when it rebounds from its collision with the Constitution.

"There is a limit in things."

Wed. 5-28-47 BYSTANDER.

Charleston.

To The News and Courier:

According to a news report from New York, the mother of Willie Earle, lynch victim, is quoted as saying about her visit to New York, "I am happy to be in God's country".

South Carolina and the entire South would be a thousand times better off if all the mothers of Willie Earles, and all the Willie Earles, would pack up and move on to God's country.

By the way, what happened to the poor widow of the slain taxi driver, helplessly murdered by lynch victim Willie Earle? Has any one started a drive for funds to aid her?

FAIR PLAY.

Ravenel.

To The News and Courier:

Many a visitor to Charleston offers a word of appreciation of the attitude of Mr. Zeigler, Miss Simons, and other thoughtful Charlestonians, evidenced in their recent letters concerning the Greenville error.

In bringing about such a reaction to their verdict, the jurors in this case have unintentionally uncovered the deep layer of justice which exists in the minds of their fellow South Carolinians who know that those things are right which raise the spirit of man and those things are wrong which are followed only by shame and chagrin.

It does not seem unthinkable that the present situation provides a moral cornerstone on which to build an informal public opinion and a respect for the rights of man, without which we may as well admit our unworthiness as citizens and our failure as individuals.

GEORGE A. SCHEIRER.

9 College street.

Wed. 5-28-47

To The News and Courier:

It is certainly disgusting and nauseous to read daily about the Greenville mob lynching, and to read the mouthing some people do about it. But nothing is said or done about the poor taxi driver murdered in cold blood.

I have wondered what they would say or do if it had happened to one of their own family. I am not in favor of mob rule but do believe in justice being done.

CITIZEN

Charleston.

The Verdict at Greenville

30a S.C. (Tr-[illegible]

To The News and Courier:

None of us approves lynching, but instead of just pronouncing our state disgraced by the recent occurrence in Greenville, it is the business of the great doctor, Public Opinion, to look into the cause and prescribe a cure. Your correspondent of May 30 does prescribe a cure: immediate trial and local public execution of penalties for major crime. News + Courier

A study of English jurisprudence shows that penalties for violation of law carried out in public were not designed as vengeance upon the criminal but as a public demonstration to those inclined to commit similar crimes. We must remember this is the purpose of our own courts. Charleston, S.C.

In your May 30 issue we read that the recently appointed superintendent of our penitentiary "detected the absence" of five prisoners. From this we assume the public had not been notified of their release. Former Governor Williams explains he had intended to parole three of them but that his office staff "neglected to prepare papers because of shortage of help." The other two he released because the penitentiary "lacked medical facilities to care for them". Two of these prisoners were serving life sentences for murder, one a 15-year sentence for rape, the other two, short terms for minor crimes. No mention is made of any recommendation by the parole board.

Is such apparent laxity in carrying out court decree conducive to curbing mob violence? Is it conducive to respect for law among juvenile delinquents?

CORNELIA DABNEY TUCKER.
21 Lamboll street.

Sun. 6-1-47

To The News and Courier:

The newspapers of South Carolina have given the trial of the 31 defendants wide publicity, much of it unfavorable, much in condemnation of the verdict of the jury and a great deal in criticism of counsel for defendants.

I have had occasion to read these criticisms, and in fairness to us I am writing, requesting that you publish a letter, copy of which I am enclosing, written by a negro in Harlem, New York City, who writes in defense of the South. I feel that in justice to us, our clients, and also the State of South Carolina that you should publish this letter.

For your information I will state that I have a telegram from the writer of this letter giving me permission to publish it in any paper in the State.

BENJ. A. BOLT,
(Of Counsel for the 31 Defendants).

Dear Mr. Bolt:

I have just heard over the radio about the outcome of the trial. I am a colored man living in Harlem and am sending you the enclosed material because I am sick and tired of the South and the decent white people of the South continually being represented as villains by the damyankees, the same Yankees who lynch negroes and discriminate against negroes up here but through a conspiracy among the white newspapers of New York City and the negro papers of the nation the truth never reaches the public.

Now in the case of the Puerto Rican outrage here in New York the National Association of Colored People never lifted its finger. The negro papers joined the white papers in suppressing it but all join to denounce Bilbo and Rankin and tell the South how to manage its business.

I am preparing a memo for all members of congress and calling on them to investigate the calumny against the South by the white and negro papers and presented to the world, at the same time hiding the filth in their own backyard.

T. C. WILLIAMS.
New York City.

To The News and Courier:

The consensus is that the Greenville lynching was due to failure of the courts to render speedy justice. If such be the case, then who are responsible for this condition, and what are we going to do about it? Sun. 6-1-47

Is it not true that in practically every county in this state there is what is known as a so-called leading attorney, usually a member of the legislative body, who has a reputation for having the jury bring in verdicts according to his dictates without regard to the law or to justice? Is it not also true that such attorneys often have cases continued from term to term until the evidence is dulled or completely destroyed with the sole purpose of defeating justice? To such men and such practices are due the lack of faith we find today in the justice received at the hands of the courts.

It seems that the ethics of the profession are based on no moral code whatsoever. If there is a code, it is so grossly abused by some practitioners that it is brought into disrepute, judging by what is seen.

Our laws today are made by a body composed mostly of lawyers. It appears that the laws are no longer made for the benefit of the people as a whole, but for the makers.

Do not the judges owe their tenure of office and their salaries to this same legislative body? Were they not members of this body before being elected judges? Are they free from political pressure? When our courts become so enmeshed in political intrigues that we lose respect for their decisions, then God help us!

Is it not plain that our courts today are run more for the benefits of the lawyers than for the pale justice they grind out? Should we expect more considering the controlling body in their making?

What can you and I do about it? We can retire these county kinglets by the ballot. Only then will justice become again the prerogative of the courts

NEELY J. SMITH.
The Water Wheel, Ridgeville.

To The News and Courier:

Public opinion has already been generally expressed both in condemnation of lynching (in the Greenville case, as far back as the time of the gander-pulling—when that atrocity was re-introduced by outsiders), and for the delaying tactics permitted by lax law enforcement. Sun. 6-1-47

What we need in our state are more people like "The Two College of Charleston Students". More courage and vigor in the application of our state laws. More important still, cooperation from the negroes themselves with regard to moral and social laws; their respect for and obedience to all law.

Why should the six signers of a letter suggest that there should be a necessity to "claim" what is lawfully ours—the right to manage our own affairs? To whom should such a claim be made? Why need we fear that we should "invite outside interference"? The constitution would make such "interference" unlawful, and illegal amendments new or old would signify nothing.

From other quarters of this country we have accounts of terrifying crimes. The people there are not able to manage their own affairs or to administer justice, even with the help of the FBI. They have not been able to stem, much less stop, the crime wave engulfing their part of the country. In fact, reports say that their crimes are on the increase. Are these the "publicans" from whom we might "invite interference?"

A SINNER.
Charleston.

To The News and Courier:

We are a group of Northen boys here at the Citadel and consequently read Charleston news papers. In particular, the readers' comments. We wish to offer, for what is is worth, our opinion about this lynch verdict, and to answer one of our fellow students.

To bring to light a verdict in the state of Pensylvania in 1912 as an example of "Northern lynching" does not bear upon the case. One wrong never did satisfactorily explain away another.

The "gang lynchings" you refer to up north are called murders and our juries are not afreid to punish these criminals with death. At least you place these Greenville murderers in their proper category as such.

No doubt these jurymen in the case were very much afraid of a verdict which would place their position in their home town in jeopardy. They lacked moral courage to render a just verdict, in fact, fell over backwards to "show these Yankees they can't interfere with the South". Sun. 6-1-47

If we desire to keep American democracy strong, we must obey the law of the land, for the will of the people is that law. If we profess one belief and our actions belie it, we are hypocrites; and the Bible is very specific on such matters. Southern hypocrisy not democracy ruled at Greenville.

Up around home they say the big fault of a Southerner is his inability to take any advice from anyone not a fellow creature from Dixie. The first thing brought up is the War Between the States and Reconstruction. They are a disgrace to Noth and South alike, and should have been forgotten long ago. Hate dies hard and in an apparent mood of "you never licked us", these people, such as had the nerve to defy what they knew was the truth, showed the Yankees to stay away. When is the South rejoining the union?

WESLEY H. ALEXANDER,
MARTIN C. SINGER,
BERNARD GOLIFF,
The Citadel.

MOB RULE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Justice took a beating last week at Greenville, S.C., where 28 confessed suspects in the lynching of Willie Earle were acquitted by a lily-white jury. 30a (Tr-Results)

It was no more than many of us expected. "Trial by fury" is how one British newspaper headlined the verdict. The designation is apt. Sat. 5-31-47

Much has been made of the fact that this is the first instance in history of a mass lynch trial and that the mere prosecution of the case indicates progress.

Granted that 37-year-old Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., is to be commended for forcing the case on the present term calendar over the objection of defense counsel, and for doing his best to eliminate the racial angle from the trial, it is still a fact that the jurors who brought in the shocking acquittal verdict did nothing to add to their stature.

Many South Carolinians are ashamed of what happened at Greenville last week. They are ashamed because their State has been singled out before the world as a place where mob rule prevails. But many others apparently are proud.

The mockery of justice at Greenville was an immediate signal for North Carolina and Arkansas to seek to duplicate what happened at Greenville. Mobs were on the loose in these States almost before echoes of the jury's verdict had died out in the courtroom.

The Greenville verdict makes it perfectly plain that colored people in South Carolina and throughout the South, are now at the mercy of the mob; that the law is powerless to defend them or to punish their assassins.

It also makes it clear that unless the Federal Government, through a strong anti-lynching law, steps in and takes a hand, there can be no freedom from fear for those who live in the South. The only alternative is that colored people, like whites, take the law in their own hands.

Representative Clifford P. Case (R., N.J.) recently introduced in Congress a bill against lynching. His bill would make local communities liable for civil damages of $2,000 to $10,000 for a lynch victim or his survivors.

It would punish lynching by a maximum fine of $10,000 or up to 20 years imprisonment and would subject public officers who "wilfully failed" to prevent a lynching to a fine of $5,000 or five years in jail.

This bill is now before the House Judiciary Committee. AFRO readers are urged to write or wire Rep. Chase. Rep. Earl C. Michener (R..Mich.) chairman of the House Judiciary Committee or Rep. Joseph Martin (R., Mass.) at the House Office Building, Washington, in order to get action on it.

The blood of Willie Earle is upon the hands of us all if we fail to bend every possible effort toward obtaining passage of the Case bill. Sat. 5-31-47

As long as we continue to look to the States for punishment, we might well expect more Greenvilles, Monroes and Columbias. Dixie's deep-rooted white supremacy pattern will not be altered from within.

Call it Northern influence or anything else you will, but the fact remains that a strong Federal law, courageously and vigorously enforced, is the only weapon with which we can successfully combat mob rule.

Thousand Regrets

(From The New Republic)

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World 30a S.C.

The Greenville labor lawyer, John Bolt Culbertson (the NR, March 31), whose inflamatory courtroom remarks in defense of the South Carolina lynch defendants earned widespread disapprobation, last week explained in this way his sudden turnabout from a long record of liberalism: Jess Mitchell, local official of the CIO Textile Workers, had begged him to enter the case because two of Mitchell's daughters were married to accused men. Wed. 6-18-47-Wed.

"Since they had always looked to me for help in trouble . . .I finally decided to take the case. . .My one aim was to give them the very best of my ability toward obtaining an acquittal. . .In retrospect I now realize that probably the same result would have been obtained without the type of appeal I made to the jury, but in the heat of the trial I admit that I made statements which were provocative and perhaps unnecessary and did not express my true sentiments . . .The damage has been done and a thousand regrets will never undo it." Wed. 6-18-47

Clark Hints U. S. May Take Over in S.C. Case

Afro-American Baltimore, Md. 30a (Tr-Results)

Sensational Trial Still Chief Topic in Greenville; Reactions Mixed

Sat. 5-31-47

GREENVILLE, S.C.—With the acquittal of the 28 admitted participants in the Willie Earle lynching still the chief topic in this city and other parts of the country, U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark on May 24 denounced the local jury's action and hinted that the Justice Department may take the case into court.

Addressing the Kansas Bar Association meeting in Topeka, Mr. Clark condemned local judiciaries for their failure to fight injustice effectively and promised:

"So long as I am Attorney General and there is any thread of law to stand on, I shall try to see that justice is done to all our people, white or black."

Local Governments Scored

He charged that too often local governments are unwilling to carry out their obligations. However, he continued, the Department of Justice has gone into the States before and might act in the Greenville case.

As precedents, he cited the lynching cases in Monroe, Ga., and in Linden, La. In both cities, the Department prepared the cases on the basis of facts applicable under Federal laws. Sat. 5-31-47

It was revealed that on the basis of the 26 confessions admitted in the Greenville court record, the Justice Department can bring conspiracy charges against the 28 men under the Civil Rights Act.

That law makes it a Federal offense to conspire to deprive any citizen or group of citizens of their civil rights.

Variety of Reactions Noted

In Greenville proper, the sensational trial is still the chief topic. While the acquitted men are still making a spectacle of themselves as they laugh triumphantly over the verdict, the other whites in the community reflect a variety of reactions. 30a S.C.

Outside of the participants themselves, few of the whites have condoned the lynching. However, most have agreed that no white man should have been imprisoned or sent to the electric chair for the crime.

Some few among the more intelligent residents have dared to say that they are ashamed of the verdict. A large number are embarrassed and realize that the rest of the country is criticizing the city.

Expected by Colored Residents

Like the whites, most of the city's nearly 14,000 colored population, 40.3 per cent of the total, expected the acquittals.

While they are not anxious to talk, however, they have united to fight the setup, mainly through strengthening of jim-crow laws.

Concentrating their attack on the white taxicab drivers, colored residents are preparing petitions for more colored cabs.

Want More Cabs

According to J. E. Beck, principal of the Sterling High School, 90 per cent of the colored people use taxicabs because bus service is bad and riding on the buses is often dangerous.

Although the city refused to add to the five colored cabs now licensed, Mr. Beck said, the people feel that they might be able to get them now.

The all-white jury which freed the men ignored completely the 26 confessions and returned not guilty verdicts on 98 separate counts.

Following the verdict, Judge J. Robert Martin dismissed the jurors without even expressing the usual "thanks." He simply told them where to get their $8 a day pay—and that was all.

Warned Against Racial Element

Judge Martin, who did his best to conduct the trial according to the real meaning of "justice," indicated his disgust and displeasure as he walked out of the crowded courtroom with his face flushed.

Earlier, he had advised the 12 men, "honest and true," neither to let Dixie bias influence them nor to consider whether Earle was guilty of the crime which led to his lynching.

Turning the case over to the jury, the youthful, conscientious judge charged them severely:

"A court of law recognizes no color, no creed. I instruct you that under your oath as jurors you are not to allow any so-called racial issues to enter into your deliberations in the case in any respect." Sat. 5-31-47

The 28 freed, all but a few taxicab drivers themselves and all implicated in the 26 confessions admitted, had winced as the judge delivered his charge to the jury and revealed that death in the electric chair was possible.

Their Definition of "Justice"

But soon as they learned that their pattern of life was safe, they turned the courtroom into a circus.

Surrounded by the 400-odd spectators who swarmed down to congratulate them, they laughed and joked, shouting every now and then, "Justice has been done."

Not only did the admitted lynchers lose any semblance of dignity, but so did the chief defense attorney, Tom Wofford, who began ranting against the Department of Justice, Walter Winchell and other Northerners who had called for a different type of justice.

Three train crewmen and the driver of a Congressional Country Club bus which was struck by a Baltimore and Ohio freight train near Bethesda, last Wednesday, killing three persons, were cleared of manslaughter charges Tuesday.

Trial Magistrate Alger Y. Barbee in Rockville Police Court acquitted the four men after four hours of testimony. He decided that was insufficient evidence of "gross negligence" against them as individuals to constitute a manslaughter charge.

Those found not guilty were John E. Mastin, 63, of the 2600 block of Third St., N.W., train engineer; Franklin R. Lake, 61, Arlington, Va., conductor; Otis F. Bartlett, 49, Silver Spring, the flagman, and Fred L. Reynard, 45, bus driver. Sat. 5-31-47

The three passengers killed in the accident were Mrs. Elsie Williams, 47, of 1214 35th St., N.W.; Miss Shirley Gordon, 27, of 810 Fourth St., N.W., and Jeff Handy, 40, of the 2300 block N St., N.W. Five other persons were injured.

No Excuse for Accident

Prior to passing sentence, Judge Barbee declared that there was "no good excuse for the accident happening."

"It is rather shocking that such a dangerous place is permitted to be obscured by foliage," the magistrate commented.

Testimony revealed that vision at the crash scene is handicapped by a number of cherry trees planted there, and the crossing is unprotected by gates, bells or a watchman."

Although exonerating them on the manslaughter charges, Judge Barbee accused them and "others not in court" with being negligent in one form or another."

He added that "to add up their negligence probably would constitute gross negligence," but individually they were not guilty of gross negligence."

Newest Qualification for Sheriff: Be Freed on Lynching Count

(Tr-Results)

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Likelihood that a man accused by his comrades of being a lyncher might become sheriff loomed here last Friday, when Hendrix Rector announced that he was going to get drunk for four weeks and run for the county post. Sat. 5-31-47

Not only are some citizens anxious to have an admitted lyncher as the next sheriff, but Rector is "qualified" for the post, inasmuch as one of his two relatives who once were sheriffs was convicted of killing his predecessor.

Freed Member Of Lynch Mob Fires Into Loaded Car

Atlanta Ga. Daily World

~~Wed~~. 6-11-47-Wed

30a) (Tr.-Results)

GREENVILLE, S. C.— (ANP)—Four Negroes here filed charges last week against Hendrix Rector, one of the acquitted members of the Greenville lynch mob, for firing a gun into their car last Thursday night as the two cars, one driven by Rector, came to a halt at a traffic light. No one, however, was reported as being hurt.

Wed. 6-11-47

Rector is the man who, after his acquittal, said he "was going to stay drunk for a month and then run for sheriff." The charge against Rector was "shooting firearms in the city."

Sinning Against Society

30a (Tr-Results)

Editor of The Times-Dispatch,

Congratulations on your able editorial on mob-rule. ["Mobs Are Forerunners of Anarchy," June 2.] However, I doubt that you will make any more friends or converts among the Winchells of the North and the Windmills of the South. Winchell, who inveighs against this and that ad nauseam, is perhaps smarter than his Southern ilk in that he gets some return for his mawkish, slobby, English-scarring effusions. The Windmills of the South merely provide his stenchful armory with ammunition. Wed. 6-4-47

The point, as I see it, is not that revenge was in order, in the South Carolina classic. The point is: Whose revenge is to be honored? The crime was against the whole people of the State, not just against 28 taxi-drivers. And a further crime against the people resulted from the vengeance of the 28. A child can see the resultant action if, let us say, the friends and relatives of the slain suspect were to gather in force and with arms attack the 28 taxi-drivers. And if friends and relatives of the then-victim 28 were to gather in force and with arms, to attack the friends and relatives of the slain suspect.

Man sets up a defensive code by which to assure himself of continued existence, poor as that survival maybe. Man, in mass numbers, sets up a similar defensive code with an eye to covering all the possible offenses against every stratum of existence encompassed by his numbers. This is called "law." When processes of law are suspended, every class of man in the mass is threatened. That only one now, or three at another time, are the subject of the mob's attention, is neither here nor there. The threat obtains. It could be you or I. It will be you, or I, if such transgressions go unpunished. Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch

WILLIAM J. O'SULLIVAN
Saluda.

Abhorring Mob Rule

30a Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

In reading the many comments in regard to the Greenville, S. C., incident and other cases of a similar nature, one would be led to believe, especially by those from from beyond the Potomac, that lynching is a Southern institution reserved for Negroes. Wed. 6-4-47

There has been, and is at present, much agitation regarding a Federal antilynch law, but in my opinion this would achieve no better results than the Federal law during the prohibition era.

The need for today is a better understanding and closer cooperation between the intelligent classes of both races to the end that perpetrators of these heinous crimes shall be hunted down, and, where the evidence is sufficient to sustain a conviction, be given the extreme penalty. But, by all means, have it accomplished through the judicial process for it is obvious that no civilized State can endure under mob rule.

Richmond. G. BUTLER.

Though public reaction has subsided regarding the South Carolina lynching case, the Justice Department has not. The case may reach the Supreme Court yet. 30a

Atty. Gen. Tom Clark, who comes from Texas, and Asst. Atty. Gen. Lamar Caudle, from North Carolina, both believe that Southerners must demonstrate that they can handle their own lynching cases. S.C. (Tr-Results)

Accordingly they are working on an entirely new phase of the South Carolina lynching. The 26 self-confessed lynchers were tried for murder and acquitted. But they were not tried for violation of civil rights. Furthermore, they were tried by the state of South Carolina. And while the federal government cannot retry them for murder, it can try them for violation of civil rights. Fri. 6-6-47

The important point is that state law frequently differs from federal law. In many of the Southern states, for instance, operating a whisky still is only a misdemeanor. But under federal law it is a felony. Furthermore, federal juries usually represent a more intelligent cross-section and there is a better chance for conviction. B'ham, Ala. News

These are some of the factors Atty. Gen. Clark and Asst. Atty. Gen. Caudle are working on in their plan to retry South Carolina's self-confessed lynchers.

Verdict in S.C. Lynch Case Shocks Press of England, United States

30a (Trial-Results) Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

Even South's Newspapers Deplore Injustice; Passage of Antilynching Law Held Needed

Sat. 5-31-47

That the acquittal of the 31 lynchers in Greenville, S.C., last week, shocked civilized people throughout the world, as well as throughout the United States, is shown by the editorial comment carried in England and the United States.

Despite the fact that newspapers are rationed very closely in England, nearly all of the daily publications carried the news of the acquittal, some on the front page.

"Trial by Fury" Blasted

Typical of their comment was the editorial in the London Daily Mail, carried on the front page, which said:

"Trial by fury remains the unwritten law of America's South," and commented upon the fact that the attitude of the white to the colored population remains "America's No. 1 problem."

Other British papers carried headlines reading: "Death Men Go Free" and "Lynchers Hold Carnival."

Verdict Shocks South

Editorial comment, even in the heart of the South, in the United States, revealed that civilized persons were deeply shocked at the jury's verdict. The following excerpts are given of Southern editors' reactions:

Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal: The acquittals "mark a sad day for justice and the South." They are a "rebuke to the decency of that vast majority who believe in the maintenance of law and order.",

Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch: "The whole South, the whole nation must hang its head in shame over the verdict."

The Raleigh (Va.) News and Observer: "The verdict has left a stigma upon the State which can only be removed by the people of South Carolina, themselves."

"Verdict for Anarchy"

The Atlanta Journal termed the outcome of the trial "a verdict for anarchy," in which the law was lynched. Sat. 5-31-47

Criticizing defendants' attorney for injecting the North-South angle in the case, the Times-Picayune declared:

"As for Northern interference, this is one instance in which that frequently-valid protest holds no water, whatsoever. This was a Southern matter and right poorly was it dealt with."

The Washington Post dismissed the verdict cynically, showing just how brash the mass acquittal was, with the comment:

"A jury of neighbors looked at these men and found themselves mirrored among them, heard the story of what they had done and decided there was nothing wrong in it."

"Double Standard" Assailed

The Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal pointed out that the acquittal was "the sort of thing that in effect continues, in the face of reason, to deny that the South is a part of the United States.

"There cannot be two codes of decency, or double standards of democracy or rights," it continued.

The Charlotte (N.C.) News declared, "The verdict of the jury was the product of an ingrained prejudice that defies the laws of God even as it defies the laws of South Carolina."

Antilynch Law Pressed

Most of the papers commenting on the acquittal (even Southern ones), mention the fact that the need for antilynching legislation is now apparent.

The Atlanta Constitution said: "The conscience of the nation is shocked. Unless the people demonstrate a willingness to uphold the law against lynching, we cannot and should not escape a Federal law."

The Baltimore Evening Sun points out: "Every Southern lynching unpunished intensifies the demand for a Federal antilynching law."

The Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald concedes:

"As much as most Southerners disprove of Federal intervention, the verdict will increase the feeling, even in the South, that some other methods than those now available must be found, when colored citizens are murdered by white mobs."

Mild Good Accomplished

Several of the larger newspapers like the New York Times and New York Herald Tribune elected to see some good accomplished in the Greenville case, despite the verdict, because, as the Times points out:

"A precedent has been set. Members of lynching mobs may now know that they do not bask in universal approval, even in their own disgraced communities."

Other Northern newspapers show their disapproval of the verdicts in more condemnatory language such as the Minneapolis Times, which says:

"This is perfect proof that the spirit of justice is dead in Greenville, S.C., and that its citizens live in the shadow of a great shame, where the American tradition of equality under the law has been cruelly burlesqued."

The Denver (Colo.) Post calls the acquittal a "national disgrace," and points out "it is the kind of justice that makes us wonder what will happen now to Southern insistence that no national action is needed to curb mob barbarity."

Aids Country's Critics

The international aspects of the acquittal were not overlooked by the nation's press. Says the Chicago Sun (the verdict): "made some propaganda for the Russians in Greenville, playing right in the hands of anybody who wants to magnify the shortcomings of American democracy." 30a

The New York Times sums up the harm the verdict has wrought on the international front by saying:

S.C. (Tr-Results)

"This story told abroad, and especially in countries critical of everything American, does not hurt South Carolina alone. It hurts the United States. It gives ammunition to Communists in Russia and Fascists in Spain."

7526

Jury Hears Arguments

30a S.C. (Trial–Results)

Directed Verdict Frees 3 Suspects

The Courier

By A. M. RIVERA Jr., Staff Correspondent

GREENVILLE, S. C.—Surprise followed surprise in the Greenville County Criminal Court here Monday morning . . . Judge J. Robert Martin Jr. ordered a verdict of directed acquittal for three of the thirty-one white men charged with lynching Willie Earle last February . . . and an hour later, in a dramatic move, defense attorneys rested their cases for the remaining twenty-eight defendants without offering a single piece of evidence . . . and without calling a single witness.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Arguments for both the defense and the prosecution began Tuesday morning, and a verdict is expected late this week, in the biggest mass lynching trial in American history. Freed by Judge Martin's order were Earl Martin, Ernest Stokes and Vardry McNorris, who were among five defendants who made no signed statements to investigators before the trial began.

Sat. 5-24-47

The charge against John B. Marchant, son of a prominent textile magnate, was modified to charge him with being an accessory before the fact and with conspiracy to commit murder. The remaining twenty-eight accused are given less than a fifty-fifty chance to escape conviction.

Under the South Carolina laws, murder carries the death penalty. Murder, with a recommendation of mercy, carries life imprisonment. A manslaughter conviction carries a penalty of from two to thirty years' imprisonment. Conviction on the charge of being an accessory before the fact carries the same penalty as murder. Conviction of being an accessory after the fact carries a penalty not to exceed thirty years. A conviction on the common-law charge of conspiracy to commit murder, carries a penalty of not more than ten years.

The charges against defendants Willie Eugene Bishop, W. D. Oakley and Howard Thompson were reduced from the full four counts to two. They are charged now with being accessories before the fact and with conspiracy to commit murder.

30a S.C.

The other defendants who remain accused are under indictment on four counts. They are charged wth murder; conspiracy to commit murder, and with being accessories both before and after the fact.

(Trial–Results)

CHARGED WITH MURDER

Roosevelt Carlos Hurd Sr., who was charged by several defendants, in signed statements, with having fired several shotgun charges into Earle's body and blowing off the top of his head, is charged with murder.

Courier

The State closed its testimony in the precedent-shattering trial on Saturday, after presenting a network of scientific evidence assembled by the FBI, State and local authorities. After adjournment, Solicitor Sam R. Watts and three FBI agents met Governor J. Strom Thurmond, who ordered the original investigation as soon as Earle's blasted and mutilated body had been discovered on a lonely road near Pickens, a few miles north of here.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

ACCEPTS FBI TESTIMONY

The court had accepted into evidence the signed statements of twenty-six of the defendants made to FBI agents during the investigations before the trial. It was on the basis of the fact that five of the defendants had made no statements, that defense attorneys entered motions for directed acquittal verdicts for those five.

Judge Martin granted acquittals for three, but refused to grant the motions for Woodrow Wilson Clardy and Samuel D. Stewart.

However, the statements of the twenty-six are being admitted into evidence against only the signers themselves.

The most incriminating statement against Hurd, the alleged triggerman, was that signed by Charles M. Covington, driver of the lead car, in which Hurd rode. Many of the other statements corroborated the fact that Hurd, a 47-year-old cab dispatcher, who has a second grade education, was the arranger of the details, the man who personally knew the jailer from whom he effected Earle's delivery, and was also the self-appointed executioner.

Sat. 5-24-47

Vivid descriptions of the lynching of the pleading Negro were read from the statements, before the prosecution closed its case.

When the surprise defense act took place Monday morning, Judge Martin immediately set Tuesday at 9:30 A. M., for the summary arguments, and alloted counsel for each side four hours.

The conduct of the case by Judge Martin has brought a great admiration for the cool and impartial manner in which he has kept the trial within proprietory bounds.

U. S. Prosecution Of Lynching Case Held Impractical

Times-Union

Jacksonville, Fla.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 24. (AP)—Thomas Wofford, leading defense attorney for 28 white men who were acquitted this week of lynching a negro, said Attorney General Tom Clark might invoke Federal prosecution "but they'll never get our boys back into court."

30a S.C.

Wofford made his comment in connection with a statement by Clark that he would ask immediate investigation into the possibility of civil action in the "outrage" in South Carolina where a jury acquitted self-acknowledged members of a lynch-mob.

(Trial–Results)

"It was a fair trial," said Wofford. "It is our system of jurisprudence to submit a case to a jury. These mene were tried for murder. The jury passed on the law and the evidence, and returned an acquittal. How are they going to get around that?

"There's no possible Federal violation of civil rights."

Wofford blamed the "pressure coming from up North," and declared: "I wish everybody would forget about it and leave us alone."

He insisted Federal prosecution was "not the answer to our problem," and added: "The solution is education for both races."

He pointed out any trial in Federal court would be before a South Carolina jury.

5-24-47

CAROLINIANS SPLIT ON LYNCH VERDICT

Times

New York, N.Y.

But Whites and Negroes Mingle in Greenville Streets With No Sign of Racial Tension

30a S.C. (Trial–Results)

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 22—The acquittal last night of all defendants in the South's biggest lynching trial brought public reaction in this textile center today which followed precisely the pattern that developed when the crime was committed. Assertions ranging from admissions of shame to declarations that the verdicts were "the best thing that ever happened in Greenville" could be heard on almost any street corner.

Men, women and children, whites and Negroes, mingled in shopping crowds, rubbed shoulders at busy store counters and occasionally exchanged greetings while their children stared at each other, apparently unaware of any racial conflict.

By custom the 900 Negro students in Sterling High School passed through groups of white students as all walked the tree-shaded streets to their classes. In twenty-two years there has never been a clash between students of both races as they pass each other daily. There was none today.

Disappointment in One Circle

Among the citizens who managed to force the case to trial and spread on the record the story of cruelty and lawlessness, the general feeling seemed to follow these lines:

Times

They had never expected a conviction of the twenty-eight defendants for murder, but the forthright prosecution and conduct of the trial led them to hope that a few would be convicted on the conspiracy charge and sentenced to a year or two in jail.

They had never expected less than a jury disagreement that would reflect the divided opinion of the community.

Around the court house during the trial there had been much "talk" about white men "taking down their guns" because an acquittal would make the Negroes "troublesome." Negro leaders answered that today by coming up with a practical plan designed to eliminate friction among the groups that brought about the lynching.

The victim, Willie Earle, had been put in jail as a suspect in the stabbing of a white taxi-driver, T. W. Brown. Prior to the lynching there had been a series of beatings and robberies of local taxi-drivers which had been blamed on Negroes.

"More than half of the business of local taxi-drivers is from Negroes and yet Negroes have only five of the more than 150 taxicabs in this city, a Negro leader said.

For "Jim Crow" Taxicabs

"Let them 'Jim Crow' the taxicabs," he said. "Let the City Council allot more taxicabs for Negroes and have Negroes ride only in Negro-driven taxis. They 'Jim Crow' everything else, but they skip it on taxis to give economic privilege. That will put an end to this taxi-driver strife in town."

The Negroes here felt hurt. The high school students uniformly agreed that the verdict was "discouraging." Dr. J. E. Beck, principal of Sterling High School, was at a gasoline filling station when he heard the verdict last night on a radio broadcast. The white men at the station clapped and one of them asked him what he thought of the decision.

"Just what thirteen million other Negroes think," said Dr. Beck, "that they'd never be convicted.

Many of the defendants, all but three of whom were taxi drivers, walked the streets today accepting congratulations. Paul Griggs, a member of Merrill's Marauders in the war, said he had received "many job offers." Hendrix Rector said he was going to run "for Sheriff here in the next election."

Praise for Prosecution

Letters and telegrams continued to arrive here for the prosecution staff. They were from all over the country and praised them for their courage in conducting the trial.

Times 5-23-47

In near-by Spartanburg, the home town of Solicitor Sam R. Watt, who was principal prosecutor at the trial, a group of about fifty Wofford College students paraded last night in protest against the verdict. In Columbia, the capital city, there was no comment from Gov. J. Strom Thurmond, who took immeditae steps when the crime was discovered to enlist all state law enforcement agencies in bringing the alleged lynchers to book.

Times

Editorial comment in an afternoon paper declared that the verdict "was just" and Greenville was "a community now in which cases of this kind are less likely to occur again."

"The trial stands out as a landmark of a state's earnest and deep-seated purpose to tolerate no flouting of the established process of justice," another paper will say.

Martin Popper, vice president of the National Lawyers Guild, who attended the trial the last two days, asserted that Federal action was "essential" and that the Department of Justice should start prosecutions "for violations of the civil rights statutes." He called for the immediate enactment of Federal anti-lynching laws.

Group Here Comments on Verdict

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said yesterday that the South Carolina lynching trial had served notice on Negroes of the South that the law was powerless to defend them.

Times

The statement of the association said the trial verdict only added to the proof that state action could not be expected to punish lynching, and added: 5-23-47

"Unless we can secure Federal legislation, it is entirely possible that some Negroes, abandoned to mobs by the law, may be forced, in their desperation, to advise means of protecting themselves. This would be a lawless and futile gesture, but logical and understandable in the circumstances."

SOUTH CAROLINA MAKES A START

Times

30a

The jury which has acquitted the twenty-eight defendants in the Greenville, S. C., lynching trial must have justified its verdict on one of two grounds. The textile workers, the farmer, the mechanic, the salesman and the divinity student who made up this jury believed that the defendants did not take Willie Earle from the Pickens County Jail on the night of Feb. 17 and put him to death. Or they believed that the defendants did this but that the act was justifiable.

If the first supposition were the correct one this trial, in spite of its peculiar circumstances, would be like any other murder trial. No one wants a jury to vote a conviction not sustained by the evidence. If the second supposition is true we have a different situation, and one which concerns all of us. We have a jury sworn to obey the law disregarding the law. We have a jury admonished by the court that under its oath it is "not to allow any so-called racial issues to enter" into its deliberations, and disobeying that admonition. This story told abroad, and especially in countries critical of everything American, does not hurt South Carolina alone. It hurts the United States. It gives ammunition to Communists in Russia and Fascists in Spain. Fri 5-23-47

But this jury, on which Judge J. Robert Martin grimly turned his back, is not the whole of the story. The rest of the story is that Governor Thurmond, Prosecutor Sam R. Watt, Co-Prosecutor Robert T. Ashmore, Sheriff R. H. Beardon and Judge Martin did their utmost to bring Earle's slayers to justice, and that they had the support of the local press, the local ministers and a strong body of opinion throughout South Carolina. This was no issue between "Northern meddlers" who disapprove of lynching and those Southerners who believe it a good thing. It was an issue between those who believe in law and those who believe that exceptions should be made when their own interests are involved or their own passions aroused.

There has been a victory for law, even though Willie Earle's slayers will not be punished for what they did. A precedent has been set. Members of lynching mobs may now know that they do not bask in universal approval even in their own disgraced communities, and they may begin to fear that some day, on sufficient evidence and with sufficient courage, a Southern lynching case jury will convict.

Freedom for 28 Is Pleasing to Southern City

Pm.

New York, N.Y.

30a

GREENVILLE, S. C.

To the people of this Southern industrial city, for the most part, the Willie Earle lynch murder is a closed book. A jury of 12 white men has considered the evidence and acquitted 28 other white men of the murder of a Negro. Typical comment: "So what? So they turned them loose. It was right, by law and order."

Several of the acquitted taxi drivers went back to their jobs, among them Roosevelt C. Hurd, Sr., who had been accused of blasting out Willie Earle's brains with a shotgun, and Woodrow Wilson Clardy, accused of driving the death car.

Justice, He Says

"I think justice has been done—both ways," said Hurd, grimly.

"I wanna be left alone," growled Clardy.

U. G. (Hog) Fowler, who charged he was beaten up after he testified for the State, was reported to have left town. "He said he felt his bones would be safer if he left town," said Magistrate Bates Aiken.

Sonny Brown, one of the few Greenville cabbies who wasn't involved in the case, volunteered:

"Before the lynching we had had a lot of trouble with Negroes—every two or three days. Since then, we had no trouble at all."

The Brighter Side

Among some leaders in Greenville, the opinion generally was that some "progress" had been made. Said one public official:

"If there should be another case, perhaps we may get a mistrial with a hung jury. Eventually, the South may return convictions in a lynching case."

Dr. C. Frank Pittman, pastor of Central Baptist Church, president of the Greenville Christian Ministers Assn., commented:

"When men admit they've done a thing like this I don't see how you can turn around and acquit them." Fri. 5-23-47

Acquittal Called Proof States Won't Punish

Pm.

New York, N.Y.

30a

The acquittal of 28 men in the Willie Earle lynching case has revived the campaign for a Federal Anti-Lynching Law.

"The verdict only adds to the proof that State action cannot be expected to punish the crime of lynching," said the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People. "Notice has been served on Negroes in the South . . . that the laws are for white people; if one is white, one is right, even though a lyncher." Fri 5-23-47

Calls for Democracy

"Justice in the State courts depends on democracy at the polls," said Clark Foreman, president of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. "Despite the fact that the Judge apparently tried to obtain a fair trial, the demagogy of the defense plus the disfranchisement of Negroes in South Carolina doomed the trial in advance. Until all the people are allowed to vote, the only way to stop lynching is to pass a Federal Anti-Lynching Bill."

The NAACP called specifically for the passage of HR 3488, introduced in the House May 15 by Rep. Clifford P. Case (R., N. J.), which would extend Federal court jurisdiction to include lynching cases. Under existing civil rights statutes, Federal prosecutors can intervene only when there is evidence that law enforcement officers participated in or winked at a lynch crime.

(The Case Bill is before the House Judiciary Committee. In order to get action, wire or write Case, Chairman Earl C. Michener [R., Mich.] or Speaker Joseph Martin [R., Mass.] at the House Office Building, Washington, D. C.—Ed.)

Jennings Perry

Pm., New York, N.Y.

30a

. . . And No Farther

Fri 5-23-47

GREENVILLE, S. C.

Perry

Let no one imagine that the trial at Greenville, S. C., has been waste notion and unprofitable. True, the members of the mob that lynched the Negro have been acquitted, but they were tried. Since most of them had admitted some part in the crime, it is clear that justice — retributive justice, as we think of it —has not been done. But the law has been upheld, and some excellent precedents have been set, one being that in a case of this kind, in Greenville, the law has been able to take its course.

The defendants were arrested and charged by the state and prosecuted by the State's Solicitor and judged by a jury of their peers. That is what the law provides. The fact that it might have been assumed beforehand that the jury would not convict does not extinguish the importance of the trial.

Judge Lynch Lost the Case

You can say that the mob won the case, but I think you must see that Judge Lynch lost it. I daresay that most of the people of Greenville County agree with the verdict, but the defendants, though acquitted, are not now heroes in their community. The crime for which they were tried has been exhibited publicly in all its brutality and cowardice. The mark of it will not soon wear off, and this will not be unavailing. The main protection of Judge Lynch all along has not been immunity to law, but the anonymity of his cloak. At Greenville, the one thing he has feared has caught up with him. He has been stripped in his shame and his name, and this will help greatly.

It has helped greatly that the FBI came into the case, for it will be expected to come into similar cases. And that will put upon other mobs the check of the exposure their members most dread. It has helped that Mr. Culbertson, the defense attorney, violated the rule of the court to flaunt race prejudice in behalf of his clients, because this miserable justification of murder in open court imputes to the whole public a lack of decency, whereas in clandestine lynchings the public has been able to salve its conscience by pushing away all blame. Pm.

And it helped when the defense attorney told the jury with a leer: "We understand each other," because even a South Carolina jury that knows it is not going to impose the death sentence on 21 white men for lynching one black one does not relish being sprayed with slime.

It was a proper trial. Judge Robert Martin presided fairly and charged the jury fairly. The verdict is no reflection upon his court. It is a reflection upon the width by which our reach for justice still exceeds our grasp—a gap which, when all is said and done, has been appreciably narrowed by the Greenville trial.

Upheld in Form, If Not Intent

Fri. 5-23-47

The law was upheld in form, if not in intent. We are at liberty to presume that another jury—a jury in Wisconsin perhaps, or Vermont—could have found differently upon the evidence. But the right of every accused citizen to be tried before a jury of his peers remains basic in our civil code even when, as at Greenville, the crime alleged is the denial by force and murder of just that right to Willie Earle.

We may judge the jury and try to understand the compulsions that weighed upon the 12 men who exonerated the 21 men in South Carolina—the inevitable conflict of their oaths with their instincts, with the pressures of their background and social environment. We may wish that men might have more fortitude, or that justice might be as precise and automatic as a machine.

But we may not advisedly, I think, discount either the manner of the Carolina trial or its salutary effect, in that it actually was held in that receding area of Southern mores in which the hideous crime of lynching has survived, like a toad and principally by darkness.

A Grievous Decision

Richmond, Va.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Perhaps the white public would be interested in the reflections of a Negro on the verdict of the Greenville County, S. C., jury which acquitted 28 white men involved in the brutal slaying of a Negro, Willie Earle. 30a

Fri. 5-30-47

When I read the headline in your paper while at the breakfast table I felt sick in the pit of my stomach. Suddenly I discovered that my appetite had gone. Surely this was not so. In the light of evidence presented no jury would dare to flout justice like this. But there it was: "Jury Finds Lynch Trial Defendants Not Guilty."

A wave of despair swept me. Was this the thing for which thousands of Negroes fought and died? Was this the kind of justice that we must forever expect? Would the white South forever use "Northern interference" as a cloak behind which to hide? Would it forever fool itself into believing that the Southern Negro is satisfied with the status quo and can do nothing alone to better his condition?

Then I thought of the fairminded white people. Certainly they would be embarrassed and feel a sense of guilt about the matter, but would they do more than this?

At this point a ray of hope flashed across my mind. Perhaps this verdict would prove to be a blessing after all. Perhaps it would serve as a stimulus to the passage of a Federal antilynching bill. Perhaps the South would now come to see that taking everything into consideration it was not ready to handle its own problem at this point. Perhaps now every Negro and fairminded white person would direct efforts to see that such a bill was passed and thus make lynchings and travesties of justice unlikely. With this ray of hope mingled with despair, I started for my office. Fri. 5-30-47

CHARLES L. EVANS,
Executive Secretary, Baptist
General Association of Va.
Richmond.

30a 1947

South Carolina (Trial_ Results)

FIGHTING CALL

The Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

S. Carolina Compels All Civilized America To Gird for Battle

By JOSEPH D. BIBB

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

Sat. 5-31-47

SOUTH Carolina has done it again. This State smashed the unity of our Nation and made the Civil War imperative, when it seceded from the Union during the days of President Lincoln. Again, this backward, Southern Commonwealth has fired and challenged the upholders of civilized government to create a Federal Anti-Lynch law and take positive steps to destroy the wanton and wicked systems of the Solid South.

Mr. Bibb

By freeing the lynch-murderers of Willie Earle, the South Carolina jury has weakened the specious arguments of the blatant and bawling champions of "state rights." The grisly spectacle of that jury acquitting blood-stained felons, despite confessions and admissions of guilt, has revealed and disclosed to civilization that South Carolina and the villainous bloc of Southern States cannot administer justice to colored Americans nor can they "police their own confines" with equity.

• • •

THE DRUMS AND the sobbing sounds of tom-toms are moaning and groaning. With mounting vibrations the roll and peal of the drums of discontent are swelling like thunder. The hearts of many millions of Americans throb in unison with the drums. It is the fighting call summoning the conscience and intelligence of the good people of this country into action.

The tocsin has been sounded. The call to arms has been uttered. The battle has begun. Not with bitterness, not with acrimony, nor in the mad quest of vengence, but in the calm, deliberate spirit of fixed determination, the colored people of America, the law makers of America and the legion, red-blooded, decent Americans of all racial and religious persuasion must gird their loins and stamp out the anarchy, the barbarism and the savagery of the South.

Congressman Case of New Jersey last week introduced an anti-Lynch bill that would make a situation like the travesty of Greenville, S. C., a heavy burden for its citizens and its law enforcing officers to carry. Stiff fines and penalties are contained in the bill and the violators would pay with gold, blood and tears if they violated it.

• • •

SUCH A PIECE of legislation should be passed. But it will be confronted by the filibusterers and the elected spokesmen from Alabama, the Carolinas, Georgia, Mississippi and the other hypocritical regions, while they defy orderly process and avow for white supremacy.

An Herculean task lies before us. Anti-lynching legislation will not be passed either by the House or the Senate without bitter and gruelling conflict. Even if it is given majority support and has mustered sufficient strength to be passed, it will be subjected to filibuster. And the record shows that it will be talked to death unless a time limit on debate is passed. The situation calls for cloture and here again a stern combat looms. For such obvious reasons, those who desire to handcuff lawlessness in Dixie and stamp out iniquitous systems must prepare to fight and fight hard.

There was never a more opportune time to cross swords with the faltering champions of the lost cause. This is a propitious time because next year will be election season. This is the appointed time because of the inroads of Henry Wallace and his band of liberals. Likewise extreme radical groups, such as the Communists, are using the issue to gain more power. This is the momentous hour because of the international embroglio and because of the prominence of South Carolina's most famous son, James E. Byrnes.

• • •

DOES IT NOT "freeze the blood and harrow up the soul" to conceive of Mr. Byrnes of South Carolina having been "Assistant" President of the United States, Senator, Secretary of State, almost Vice President, member of the Supreme Court and the Representative of our country at the United Nations Conference. Such indeed is mockery. Sat. 5-31-47

It was Byrnes, who "grieved" over the enslavement of the Balkans, who cried over Poland and shuddered over Russia's excesses. Yet it is his State that condones the rape and defilement of colored women, that robs, cheats and exploits almost one-half of its citizens. It is his State that takes an accused man out of jail, brutally slays him and then sets his murderers free. Shame on Byrnes, Shame on South Carolina, shame on the South and shame on the United States of America, if these sordid systems are endured.

The Verdict at Greenville

To The News and Courier:

It seems to me that many of the writers whose views concerning the verdict at Greenville have been published in The News and Courier are mistaken as to the issues of the controversy. News + Courier

The widow of the slain taxi driver, "outside interference," and arguments that lynchings occur in the North have nothing to do with the case—though it cannot be denied that these became issues in the minds of the jurors.

The real issues involved, however, are these: racial prejudice and law and order. The first must be eliminated if we are to maintain a good society, and the second must be upheld. Charleston, S.C.

No amount of "howling" about side issues will make the guilty guiltless. Nothing can be done to make right something which is wrong.

The decent people of the entire nation should raise their voices in indignation.

THOMAS H. BRITTON.
(A College of Charleston student.)
Charleston.

Tues. 6-3-47

To The News and Courier:

I note with great interest articles on the verdict at Greenville.

Rape is a capital crime and the victim never is accorded the right of defense of civil rights. A woman is attacked and even if she suffers no physical injury other than biological her nervous and social consciousness suffers a terrific blow from which she seldom completely recovers.

There is only one punishment serious enough for rape and that is death, and a prompt and sudden death at that.

The writer is a Democrat and comes from a family which went through the South Carolina Reconstruction days, a story which few Yankees or Westerners know about. If they did they would doubtless be less judicial than they are. The Democratic party is definitely responsible for the series of rapes we are having for their racial equality program does not take into effect or consideration that we here in this state would lynch a white man just as fast as a negro or other person who was guilty of the same offense and admitted it.

Recently The News and Courier had a small article in it of great moment. The statement said that we had a government in our state of lawyers. That's what the trouble is with the trials for rape and such crimes The public has lost faith in the promptness of law and feels that when it often takes two to five years to settle a case something is seriously wrong with the law and it is.

When the negro stops protecting his criminal element and goes after his rights educationally, then and only then will he be accorded all the other elements of social privilege and citizenship. For example, Harlem, New York, is one of the most law breaking and degraded spots in that state.

The writer coming from a former slave-owning family of this state and Alabama is fully aware of and sympathetic with the average negro's aspirations and plight. I feel that if the Yankees would stop being so theoretically honest with the negro and mind their own business for awhile we can settle our own troubles.

As a passing thought there are more lynchings in Chicago and New York than in the entire South and Detroit, Michigan, has a rotten racial record also. So what?

DR. WALDO H. JONES.
Myrtle Beach.

Tues. 6-3-47

To The News and Courier:

I have observed many comments on the Greenville lynching and the verdict bestowed on the men who were indicted on the charge of lynching. Some of them I agree with and some I don't.

I think that we, as South Carolinians, should hang our heads in shame. Perhaps the man was guilty but there was no authority invested in these men to take the law into their own hands. Even after evidence pointed to their guilt, they were freed.

If any man is arrested he is innocent until proven guilty. Is that not the unwritten law of the country? Why must be violate it?

Some of your subscribers reconcile themselves with comparing us with the North. We do not want to pattern after the North: If anything we want the North to pattern after us. I say down with lynchings and up with democracy.

PERRY R. TILLER, JR.
Marion.

The Verdict at Greenville

7527

To The News and Courier:

Didn't the men at Greenville stand trial? What more does anyone want? I know of murder cases, where someone was murdered in cold blood but the jury said "not guilty". If Willie Earle had stood trial, would Mr. Brown have rated any such notices?

I don't believe in lynching and there would be no cause for it if all negroes stayed in their places.

Tessie Earle went North and made a speech because her son was lynched. What about Mr. Brown's poor old mother (if she's living)? Also his wife; no one seems to care that she lost her husband. Frankly, if I had a son that robbed and murdered someone I would rather he'd be lynched than stand trial and maybe stay in prison the rest of his life. I'd be ashamed of him. I certainly wouldn't want to make public speeches. I'd be at home, down on my knees, asking God to forgive my sons his sins.

There have been many slurs handed to the taxi drivers in Greenville. Maybe there is a good reason why some of these men never went to school. Maybe they never had a chance. Not being able to write and read is no reason that they should have been convicted. I'm glad the men on the jury had the courage to say "not guilty". I hope other jurymen will take that for an example. News + Courier

Those people that raise their voices have never had a father, son, brother or husband murdered, or a mother, sister, daughter or wife raped. Wait until you do and I'm sure your viewpoint will be entirely different. Charleston, S.C.

SOLILOQUY.
Walterboro.

To The News and Courier:

A letter by James G. Harrison of the Citadel states that Lady Justice in South Carolina, as exemplified by the Greenville trial, was neither blindfolded nor color-blind.

Lady Justice has two eyes, one being the Judge and the prosecutor, the other the jury. In the Greenville case the former eye was properly blindfolded, and no color seeped through. The state and the nation should be proud of that eye.

It is the business of the people of South Carolina to see that the other eye is blindfolded.

JOHN A. LELAND
Riverland Terrace.

To The News and Courier:

I am inclined to agree with Mr. Thomas H. Britton that the issues involved at the Greenville trial were: Racial prejudice and law and order. Our constitution states definitely that "the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury..." Legally, the victim's guilt was never proven. Fri. 6-6-47

However, I do not believe that South Carolina should hang its head in shame. I think many of our officials deserve much credit for risking their political careers to see that those who took part in the killing were brought to trial. I believe further that "Northern interference" played a large part in affecting the decision of the jury. Regardless of the issues at stake, Southerners will always band together to resist outside interference, especially from the North. The word "carpetbagger" is still too fresh in our minds.

Like Dr. Waldo H. Jones (The News and Courier, June 3), I am also of a former slaveholding family, who lived in South Carolina before, during, and after the Civil war. I believe, however, that lynching is synonymous to murder and anyone taking an active part in any lynching in a democratic country to be in some degree guilty of murder.

To be sure, the public may have lost faith in "the promptness of law", but the law is the people. We made it and it is in our power to change it. But, when we do so by mob rule, our country ceases to have a free government and becomes a mobocracy, a danger as great as the Fascism in Europe.

Fri. 6-6-47

JOSEPH L. RIVERS.
(Student of Clemson College).
John's Island.

The Verdict at Greenville

To The News and Courier:

Judge Martin ruled with great vigor in the Greenville trial, I think this is generally conceded, and his efforts to prevent any issue of race entering the case were entirely successful. Few, if any, question his disposition of the so called confessions, each was admitted with full weight against its maker, but not one contained enough evidence of guilt to convict its maker.

No sufficient evidence was adduced by the state on which the jury could possibly have based a conviction, under their oaths. Just why then, are these 12 good men, who were brought into court on subpoenas and compelled to serve, and did serve faithfully and righteously, maligned from one end of the country to the other? It is puzzling. The News And Courier

Tom Clark, who knows better than to join in these ignorant yappings, ought to be verbally horsewhipped. As a protection to the accused and to their families against such malignant publications as Life, all such publications should be barred from the county during such trials, unless the owner and the malignant portion of the editorial staff are present.

PAUL T. PALMER.
Wadmalaw Island.
Charleston, S.C.

To The News and Courier:

To those who are so very critical of the Greenville lynch trial. I would like to call attention to the Scottsboro, Ala. rape trial. A bunch of negroes threw two white boys off a freight train, where they had been riding with two white girls, then the negroes raped the girls. The negroes were captured and tried by the courts, sentenced to death or life imprisonment. At this time the Society for the Advancement of the Colored People stepped in with their lawyers, who were on a par with the lawyers who for years kept the gangsters of the Northern cities from answering for their crimes. These lawyers managed to get the verdict set aside and if I remember correctly none of these negroes was executed.

To you critics of the Greenville verdict, I would like to ask if you know what kept the South white during Reconstruction days when the radicals tried to force amalgamation through passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the United States Constitution? Amendments that were conceived in hatred, brought about by the War Between the States and the murder of President Lincoln, were passed by fraud when the Southern white men were disfranchised. The reason this diabolical scheme did not succeed was that the Southern white people could not be forced to take the orders of the Southern renegades or the Northern radicals.

Sat. 6-7-47 S. J. THOMPSON.
Charleston.

gradually grown to love and admire these three people and accordingly am, somewhat alarmed over their recent and unexplained disappearance.

I cannot help but fear that all three have met their demise in an as yet undiscovered plane crash in some out of the way spot. Or if any one of them has escaped death, I feel certain that he or she must be completely incapacitated; else he would be writing many blasphemous words with regard to the decision of the Boston city council to retain their mayor, Mr. Curley, in office even if it is necessary for him to double as a convict on the side. It is true that the daily columns of the above mentioned writers are still appearing in print but I assume these columns were all written before the tragic incident occurred. Sat. 6-7-47

I am convinced of all this because I know that if these three great unbiased moralists retained their full faculties they would bewail and decry the recent turn of events in Boston, just as they have the acts of certain Southern judges, juries and many of our other public servants from time to time. Indeed, I am beginning to believe that the news of this great disaster is being held from the public for fear of plunging this nation and the rest of the world into a prolonged state of mourning and despondency from which it might never revive. Nevertheless, I think the public is entitled to know the truth and should be informed on the circumstances surrounding this tragedy which evidently has taken from our midst three of the South's best and dearest friends.

THEODORE K. DYER
(Department of Mathematics, University of Kentucky.)
Lexington, Ky.

'Hitler Victory,' Winchell Tells S. C. Lynch Jury

The Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier
Sat. 5-31-47

By JAMES E. BOYACK, Special Correspondent

NEW YORK—"Thanks on behalf of all our fighting men alive and dead, who fought for the four freedoms. Your remarkable verdict is a great triumph indeed for Mr. Hitler," was radio reporter Walter Winchell's message Sunday night to the Greenville, S. C., jury which acquitted the twenty-eight men accused of lynching Willie Earle.

Addressing his remarks to the jury over the ABC network, Winchell said:

"In the courts of public opinion you did not acquit the accused. Your verdict against the indictment by the people of South Carolina convicted you of ignorance and bigotry.

NATION EMBARRASSED

"Your State is ashamed of you, as are the other forty-seven States, and your country is embarrassed by you before the other nations of the world.

"The reason the Hon. Judge J. Robert Martin turned his back on you, the jury, is that such great American statesmen and magnificent South Carolinians as Pinckney and Calhoun were probably turning over in their graves." Sat. 5-31-47

The commentator read a letter from Thomas J. Brittain, editor of the University of South Carolina newspaper, which said in part:

"I would appreciate your registering my contempt regarding the outcome of the lynch trial.

"I believe liberal young people in this State favor Federal anti-lynching legislation now."

Other Men's Opinions

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

Sun. 6-8-47

(From the Bamberg Herald)

The mob which brutally tortured and then shot to death the negro killer in Greenville county was guilty of murder and should have been punished. But when the FBI, aided and abetted by Northern South-haters, stepped in, it was just what the defense counsel needed for an acquittal. The average South Carolina jury will not countenance outside influence in running our affairs. The men admitted their guilt, but they admitted it to the FBI, and the defense was successful in convincing the jury that the "confessions" were secured under duress. The News + Courier

The prosecution was poorly conducted in the interest of law enforcement, but probably as well as could be expected under the circumstances. No testimony was offered except the signed confessions of the mob members. It is extremely difficult to convict any defendant on his own confession unless he admits his statement on oath before the jury. So sure were defense counsel of their position that they did not put a witness on the stand. Charleston, S.C.

If the case had been handled by South Carolina officers, the men, in our opinion, would have been convicted of some degree of murder.

The Verdict at Greenville

To The News and Courier:

I am enclosing a second editorial (from The Arizona Daily Star) commenting on the verdict returned at the trial in Greenville.

MARY SIVESIND.
(Former Resident of Charleston).
News + Courier

Excerpts from The Arizona Daily Star: Wed. 6-4-47

Ten days ago, in a little county court room in Greenville, S. C., a long anesthetized Southern sense of justice showed signs of stirring in its deep sleep. There were indications that it might fully awaken. Charleston, S.C.

Judge Martin's attitude indicated clearly that he intended the trial to be a trial of the defendants accused of murder—not a trial of the victim. Prosecutor Watt was equally meticulously fair. After the judge sorted out the facts, 21 men still faced the murder charges; directed verdicts had freed the others.

The fate of the 21 defendants went into the hands of 12 of their peers. A little more than five hours later that fate was known—a unanimous verdict of acquittal for all of the accused.

The South's sense of justice still slept. But it had stirred in its sleep. Two men, an honest and courageous judge and a fearless prosecutor, both of whom hold their positions by the will of the people of their state, represented the awakening conscience of the South. The 12 jurors proved, by their verdict, that the awakening was not complete.

To The News and Courier:

This is in answer to the appeal in the good letter of six of our leading citizens, who deplored, and asked others to speak out in deploring the travesty of justice shown in the Greenville trial of lynchers. That was not only a disgrace to South Carolina, but such triumph of lawlessness sets the state back incalculably.

In my opinion, the judge presided well, reproved the low tactics of the defense, and charged the jury according to the laws of South Carolina. Wed. 6-4-47

Let us not befog our minds: violence breeds violence. The only way to build up a state is by law and order. History and jurisprudence teach us that, and so does the Gospel. Let us not forget the Gospel. If we keep God's word, the sight of evil would make us abhor evil, not imitate it. We must stand for the right, for it is only so that we can build up a stable community.

We may all be thankful for John Temple Graves's presentation of the case in The News and Courier of May 28.

SUSAN LOWNDES ALLSTON.
Charleston.

Clean Our Own First

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Editor Constitution: Will some one please tell me why the people in Georgia are so mad about the 28 men being set free in Greenville, S. C., when somewhere in Georgia a gang of men who did worse are living in peace? The men in South Carolina knew what their man had done. Here in Georgia the men and women who were lynched had done nothing wrong as far as could be seen. Why not clean around our own doors before talking about some one else?

Fri. 6-13-47 MRS. A. C. CAMP
Marietta.

7528
7528

Mass Lynch Trial Making History In South

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

By Harry Raymond

GREENVILLE, S. C.—In a trial that is making history in South Carolina and the South, the story of how 31 white men brutally murdered Willie Earle, a 24-year-old Negro, in the early morning hours of February 17, is unfolding in court here.

Special State Solicitor, Sam R. Watt, read to the court a signed confession by Charles Covington, Greenville cab driver. According to the statement the 26 Greenville cab drivers started organizing the lynch mob soon after hearing reports that Willie Earle had stabbed T. W. Brown another cabby

Earle had been taken to the Pickens County jail. The lynch party, Covington's statement read, kept its rendevous in a car caravan on lonely Bramlett Road four miles out of Greenville.

The mob of 31 men took the prisoners from the non-resisting 62-year-old jailer, Edward Gilstrap. . .

★

THE STORY then goes into the bloody details of the murder and accuses Roosevelt Hurd, a Greenville taxi dispatcher, as the man who fired three shotgun shells point blank into the Negro's head. Earle's still-warm body was said to have been cut with knives by other members of the mob.

Hurd later denied he was the one who fired.

In all there are 26 statements before the court. Nearly all of the 31 defendants, charged with murder, are named as part of the mob in the depositions. Hurd is named in several of them as the actual killer.

Before the shots were fired, Marvin Fleming, is said to have started beating the prisoner on the head with a gun butt. And when Earle cried, "Now, you done killed me!" Flemming answered, "Let's get it over with."

5-18-47

JUDGE J. ROBERT MARTIN, Jr., overruled the defense arguments of Thomas A. Woffard to the effect that the defendants' statements were inadmissible as evidence. However, he reserved the right to change his opinion later in the trial.

The 31 defendants listened glumly to the proceedings, together with many of their wives and children.

Spectators and witnesses fill the court each day. There have been no demonstrations or commotion during the hearings so far. The old South Carolina custom of seating the whites on the ground floor and Negroes in the balcony is still carried out. On the second day of the trial even the Negro newsmen sat in the balcony.

The 12-man, all-white jury was shuttled in and out of the courtroom during the proceedings when the judge ruled that testimony brought out under cross-examination might be prejudicial.

To the local population as well as to outsiders the trial itself is an amazing fact. Many persons who hope for swift justice feel that the trial is due to national protest against past failures of law enforcement agencies to act against lynchers and lynch terror.

However, there are men in Greenville laying odds against convictions of any of the 31 defendants in the present case.

'LAW OR VIOLENCE,' LYNCH JURY CHOICE

Times

30a (Trial)

Prosecutor Urges Erasing 'Blot on South Carolina'—Defense Scores 'Northern Meddling'

New York, N.Y.

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 20—A Southern jury was urged here today to decide between "wiping out a blot on the fair escutcheon of South Carolina" and "recognizing that Southerners are peculiar people who get allong pretty well without Northern meddling." These were the basic appeals sounded in the summing up at the trial of twenty-eight white men on trial for lynching a Negro, Willie Earle, Feb. 17. Seven lawyers took seven hours to complete their arguments. The case will go to the jury tomorrow after Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., has delivered his charge.

The prosecution lawyers concentrated on reviewing the evidence, stressing the statements of participation made by twenty-six of the defendants, and charged that the accused had been "Hell-bent on defying the law in hatching a lynching in darkness under the very roofs of your homes and churches while you slept." Samuel Watt said:

Wed. 5-21-47

"It's your town. It's your county. Do you approve of these things? If you do, if you start to condone this sort of thing, you'll need more than the FBI and the state constabulary to protect you."

Judge Bars Racial Issue

The defense which presented no witnesses at the trial, referred to King Solomon's wisdom, the Book of Deuteronomy, tortures of the Middle Ages, Civil War devastation of Southern homes, the atomic bomb and Northern publications and radio commentators to support their assertion that the accused were "victims of the incurable malady of meddler's itch."

When court convened today, Judge Martin inserted in the record his instructions that the racial issue would not be argued before the jury and that the Negro victim's alleged attack on a white taxi driver friend of the defendants could not be cited as justification or mitigation for the lynching.

However, defense counsel continually skirted the subject and time and again Judge Martin clashed with them. John Bolt Culbertson, who represents CIO unions in this region and has a reputation as "a liberal," particularly drew the ire of the Court when he said:

"Willie Earle is dead and I wish more like him were dead."

Judge Martin warned Mr. Culbertson that he would stop his summing up if he continued on that line.

"You might shoot a mad dog and be prosecuted," the lawyer then told the jury, "but if a mad dog were loose in my community I'd shoot the dog and let them prosecute me."

Sectional Appeal to Jury

Thomas Wofford of defense counsel scored the presence in the courtroom of ten agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who had been State's witnesses and had taken virtually all of the twenty-six statements of participation by the accused. Pointing them out to the jury, Mr. Wofford said:

"They finished their testimony on Saturday. They're still here in the best hotels in our city, with per diem expenses and fine salaries. They'll be here tomorrow. You and I as taxpayers are paying for them to be here when they ought to be out working like the rest of us."

Mr. Wofford then asked the jury to "recall that the North never sympathizes with us, always criticizes us ever since they laid waste to our land, burned every piece of southern property." He "wondered if Willie Earle ever read the commandment 'Thou shall not kill,' and Judge Martin said sharply: "Get off that subject."

Benjamin A. Bolt of defense counsel, speaking of the state's principal corroborative witness, U. G. Fowler, suggested that the initials might stand for Ulysses Grant when he said that name didn't sound right to him. "It doesn't spell Robert E. Lee or Stonewall Jackson."

Times

P. Bradley Morrah Jr., defending John B. Marchant, his cousin and scion of a wealthy textile family, referred to the Crucifixion and urged the jurors to recall the words "Forgive them, Father, they know not what they do."

Mr. Watt told the jurors they were "at the crossroads and must choose either the highway to law and order or the highway to murder and violence." He scored the defendants as "cowards" and urged the jury to "back up your public officials who are doing their duty for you and your children here today."

New York, N.Y.

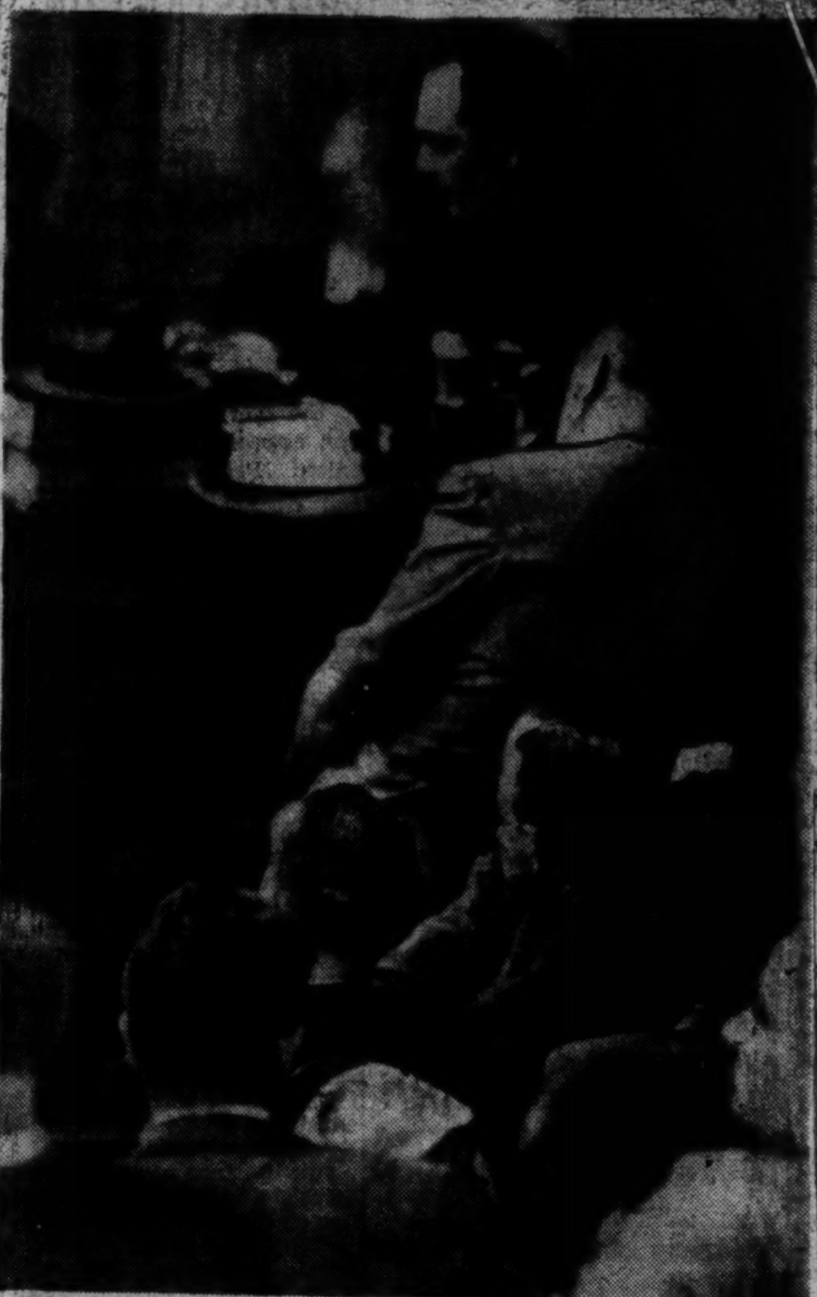
Robert T. Ashmore, associated in the prosecution, referring to the defense references to the war records of seventen of the defendants, and himself a veteran, said:

"They bled and died for the right to trial by jury, but they came home to conspire to kill a man and not give him a trial by jury."

Several times spectators indicated their approval when defense attorneys cited "Northern meddling" and Judge Martin threatened to expel them from the court room.

Wed. 5-21-47

AT MASS LYNCHING TRIAL YESTERDAY



Judge J. Robert Martin Jr. listening to the testimony in Greenville, S. C. Courtroom pictures are not permitted, so the photographer made this view through an open window from across the street.

Man Named as Lynching Slayer Denies Killing, Admits 'Mistake'

Times New York, N.Y.

30a (Trial)

5-16-47 Fri

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 15—Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, first white man ever named in a Southern court by other white men as the actual slayer in a Negro slaying, gave a sigh of relief after police told him he had been "fingered" by his fellow-lynchers and remarked, "I know what a mistake I made."

That was the story given here today by witnesses as the prosecution read to the jury the statement that Hurd allegedly made to law enforcement officers three days after the mob murder of Willie Earle, for which he and thirty co-defendants are on trial.

Twenty-six of the accused have made similar statements of participating in the crime and thus far in the trial seven of them have named Hurd as the trigger man.

The short, stocky, bespectacled 45-year-old taxicab driver, whose myopic vision gives him a perpetual frown, leaned forward in his seat and chewed gum furiously as he followed the reading of his own statement in which he displayed an emotional nature torn between savagery and tenderness.

The statement gave an incongruous picture of Hurd riding the lead car of the lynching caravan with a shotgun beside him and the Negro on the rear seat, but denying the shooting and insisting he turned his head from the killing because he "didn't want to see it happen."

Hurd's statement indicated, however, that he joined in a gang assault on the Negro that preceded the shooting. "Everybody started beating him," the statement declared. Fri 5-16-47

Agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation gave testimony today that bore out the Jekyll-Hyde nature of Hurd. They said that when he was first questioned he said he had an alibi but that when they threatened to examine his two daughters and a son, Hurd elected to shield them and replied at once:

30a S.C.

"That won't be necessary. I'll make a statement." (Trial)

The prosecution added to its web of evidence today by calling thirty-three witnesses, mostly police officers, and bringing its presentation of defendants' statements up to nineteen, all of them dovetailing on important points.

Sam R. Watt, the prosecuting attorney, read eleven statements to the jury that unfolded a picture of variegated personalities among the alleged lynchers. Two ate breakfast right after the lynching, two turned their heads rather than witness the murder and one put his fingers in his ears to shut out the roar of the death weapon.

User of Knife Is Named

Along with the naming of Hurd as the trigger-man, one of the statements today named for the first time the defendant alleged to have wielded the knife that mutilated the victim before he was shot. This defendant was Hendrix Rector, sitting with his wife, who shook with laughter when the statement described Rector as complaining with profanity because a gun butt had been broken on the Negro victim.

The prosecution also read the statement of the defendant Duran G. Keenan, in which he said he ordered a double-barreled shotgun from a friend before the lynching, explaining that he wanted to "go rabbit-hunting in Georgia." In the statement Keenan said he carried the shotgun all the time and never fired it. [illegible]

The prosecution then called Keenan's friend as a witness. This man said Keenan had borrowed the shotgun at 4:30 A. M. on Feb. 17 last, the day on which the lynchers allegedly took Earle from the Pickens County jail and killed him on a near-by country road. The friend said that Keenan told him he wanted the weapon "to go hunting in Georgia." He said it was returned unfired.

The statements involving Hurd as the killer indicate that he allegedly used a single-barreled shotgun, firing it once, reloading, firing again and then demanding a third shell, which was not given to him.

Defense Accuses FBI Men

Defense attorneys continued to hammer away at race prejudice. They suggested that FBI agents had obtained the defendants' statements by making assurances that "no jury in Greenville County will ever convict you" and that the same officers were now trying to get a conviction before a Greenville jury.

Thomas Wofford, principal cross-examiner for the defense, at one point demanded of a local deputy sheriff, "Didn't you tell these men that if they didn't make these statements you'd turn them over to the FBI and they's be taken back up North and be tried before a jury half white and half nigger?"

The witness denied any such remarks and Mr. Wofford asked again, "Didn't one of these defendants say to you, 'I'll sign a statement. I might have a chance here but I wouldnt have a chan'ce up north'?" The witness denied any such conversation.

To counter defense charges that FBI agents who were southerners had played upon "the nigger-hating sympathies" of the southern defendants, the prosecution introduced an example of southern regional feuding by showing that one defendant, born in Alabama, had refused to talk to an FBI agent who was an Alabaman because the defendant "had no use for any one from Alabama." Friday

The 250 white spectators displayed sympathy for the defendants and tittered with laughter each time the defense counsel made a point.

Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., former football player for Washington and Lee University, banged his gavel at one outburst from the crowd and cautioned, "I will demand that you show regard for the seriousness of this trial."

Fri 5-16-47

Keeper Is Called a Liar

An important piece of contradictory evidence developed by the state came in the statement of the defendant James R. Forrestor, who said that at the jail delivery the keeper, J. Ed Gilstrap, exchanged acknowledgements of recognition with Hurd. Gilstrap has testified that he could not identify any of the mob's members.

Spectators smiled at the reading of the statement by the defendant Fletcher Sweet, in which he said that while the mob was going after the Negro, "All of us were scared; I was scared at the fast driving."

The principal interest of the day centered on Hurd's statement. In it he said defendant Ernest Stokes tried to get Earle to confess he had stabbed T. W. Brown, a taxi-driver friend of the defendants. Earle had been arrested as a suspect and five hours after he was slain the taxi-driver died of his wounds.

"Everybody started beating him," Hurd's statement related. "They knocked him down on the side of the road. Somebody fired a gun two or three times. I don't know who fired the gun. I did not have a gun and I don't know whether the shots hit the Negro or not. When I seen they were going to kill the Negro I just turned around because I did not want to see it happen."

5-16-47 Fri

Frank Reid, local deputy sheriff, testified that when Hurd was brought to the station house and told by FBI agents that other alleged lynchers had named him as the trigger man, Hurd made his statement and then sat back in his chair and said:

"I feel better now. This is the first time I've ever been in anything in my life. I know what a mistake I made."

Robert T. Ashmore, Greenville County solicitor and co-prosecutor with Mr. Watt, indicated that they would complete presentation of the defendants' statements tomorrow.

SITS AT LYNCHING TRIAL

Judge J. Robert Martin Jr.

Negroes and Whites Pack Court for Lynch Trial

Courier Journal

Louisville, Ky.

30a

30a

Greenville, S. C., May 12 (UP)—Before a packed crowd of Negroes and white persons, nine of the 12 jurors were selected today for the mass trial of 31 white men charged with lynching Willie Earle, Negro. All defendants entered pleas of innocent.

Tues 5-13-47

The original panel of 26 men—women being excluded under State law—was exhausted before the jury could be completed and Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., announced that the remaining three members would be selected from a new venire of 36 tomorrow.

Almost 500 persons jammed into the tiny, steaming courtroom. The trial has aroused intense feeling throughout Greenville and there were almost as many Negroes in the tiny balcony as there were whites in the main court chamber.

Of the 26 men examined for jury duty, five were dismissed at the State's request, six by the defense counsel, and six by Judge Martin. The nine chosen were farmers or mill workers from communities around Greenville.

One of the main questions asked the prospective jurors was whether they had contributed to the defense fund for the men on trial, 28 of them taxi drivers, accused of lynching Earle after a cabdriver had been shot.

Since the roundup of suspects began shortly after Earle's slashed and shotgun-torn body was found last February 17, the defense fund has been building up from contributions placed in tin cans at Greenville business places.

All 31 defendants have been indicted for murder and one of them—Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, who is accused of firing the shotgun blast that actually killed Earle—is named on three counts of murder and one of conspiracy to commit murder. The other 30 were indicted as accessories before and after the fact and for conspiracy as well as on one count of murder.

A lynching party abducted Earle from the jail in adjoining Pickens County shortly after he had been placed there for shooting W. T. Brown, a Greenville cabbie who allegedly drove the Negro from Greenville into Pickens County. The Negro's body was found just inside the Greenville County line.

A few hours after Earle was lynched. Brown died.

7529

THE LYNCH TRIAL

Michigan Chronicle

The reports from the mass trial of the lynchers in Greenville, S.C., indicate that the F.B.I., under orders from Attorney General Tom Clark, should be given credit for bringing the murderers of Willie Earle to book. Carl Wiegan of the Chicago Tribune Press Service wrote last week:

"Testimony during the first week of the trial has made it clear that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation played a major role in gathering the evidence against the defendants. Today the jury was told that orders sending G-men into the case came from the Attorney General of the United States. Detroit, Mich. Sat. 5-24-47

"A measure of irony was seen in this, since South Carolina was the leader of the secessionist states in the Civil War, and Greenville, the scene of the trial, is only a few miles from the home of John Calhoun, apostle of state's rights in the earlier days of the republic."

Incidentally, Mr. Weigan does not tell us how far the scene of the trial is from the homes of two contemporary world statesmen, James F. Byrnes and Bernard Baruch. We are sure that these two South Carolinians do not condone lynching, particularly since they have become living symbols of the export brand of the "American way of life."

The revelation that the G-men really did a good job in South Carolina offers proof that our cause is not being totally neglected by Washington. Many Negroes have been bitterly critical of the F.B.I. and the U.S. Attorney General because the lynchers of the four Negroes in Monroe, Georgia, were never rounded up. The wanton massacre of these two couples in Georgia wounded the hearts and minds of millions of colored citizens and they have not forgotten.

Unfortunately the G-men do not have a clear cut civil rights law under which they can move openly against the lynch mobs. It is obvious from the news dispatches from Greenville, that there is some resentment of the fact that federal agents were ordered to put the finger on the murderers of Willie Earle. This state's rights nonsense is taken very seriously in some sections of Dixie and no one knows it any better than Attorney General Tom Clark who comes from Texas. It is to his credit that he has not permitted the prejudices of his native region to blind him completely to the necessity of getting a stronger federal civil rights statute and of moving with dispatch against mobsters who take the law into their own hands. Sat. 5-24-47

Although the F.B.I. did a good job in putting the lynchers on the spot, it must be remembered that they are being tried by the state of South Carolina. It is well known further that lynching is not popularly regarded with horror in that fair state. We don't believe that the mobsters will go scot free, but we really will be surprised if they are punished adequately for the mob murder. Whatever the results, this historic mass trial will be bound to cool off a lot of hot heads who advocate lynching every time a Negro is suspected of some breach of the Nazi code of white supremacy.

Acquitted Lyncher Fined For Shooting Tire Of Negro's Car

(30a) S.C. (Tr-Result) Sun. 6-15-47

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—Evidently feeling secure in the knowledge that southern justice would wink again at the white man's reprisals against Negroes, Hendrix Rector, 32-year-old cab driver acquitted with 30 others in the recent Greenville lynching, went out and shot a hole in the spare tire of a car driven by a Negro. Sun. 6-15-47

However, southern justice did not wink this time, for early last week the hackie drew a fine of $100 or 30 days imprisonment from City Recorder J. M. Richardson.

According to the testimony by Wesley Arthur, and supported by two others, he had stopped his car for a red light. A cab with two men in it, pulled up beside him and blew its horn. Arthur crossed on the green light and the car again pulled alongside. One of the men in it pulled a gun and said, "I ought to kill you. Arthur then said the man shot and punctured the back tire

Rector denied he had done so, and said that he was not in a cab that night. Woodrow W. Clardy, taxi dispatcher and also a defendant in the Willie Earle lynch trial, testified that the cab company and only three machines of the model usually driven by Record that Recter's cab was being repaired on that night. He also said that Record was in the office at the time of the shooting.

ROBERT QUILLEN

A More Drastic Law?

(30a) S.C. (Tr-Result) Fri. 6-20-47

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Greenville is a modern, rich and civilized city in South Carolina. It has several big cotton mills, a rather famous co-ed university, and a Christian population.

Sober and honest Negroes can always get jobs, and are paid as much as white people for the same work.

Recently much has been written about the trial and acquittal of 28 white men of the city, who were accused of lynching a young Negro; but most of the discussion concerned the law and righteousness and made no effort to explain the acquittal.

John Temple Graves probably came closest to the truth when he wrote that "jurors were simply afraid to face living in a community where they had condemned 28 neighbors to die for killing a Negro." Fri. 6-20-47

MILL WORKERS are a race apart. They are as clannish as Scots. America has never seen a group more loyal to one another. They stick together. Hit one and you hit all.

When people said of a candidate for the Senate that he would get the mill vote, they might have added that he would also get the office—as he did. And when nine mill workers were accepted for the jury, many people said: "That jury will never convict."

But weren't most of the accused men taxi drivers? Yes, but many grew up in mill villages; all had friends and some had relatives working in one of the mills. They were part of the clan—not klan.

The lynched Negro was in jail, accused of robbing and murdering a middle-aged taxi driver. In recent months, several other taxi drivers had been robbed at the point of a gun or knife by Negro passengers. There was a lust for revenge.

SEVERAL DAYS after the trial in South Carolina a mob in North Carolina took a young Negro from jail, but let him escape in the darkness. In that county—the only one in which Negroes outnumber whites—several Negroes had attacked white women in recent weeks. Again there was lust for revenge.

(Recent propaganda gives the impression that lynchings are common. Actually they have almost ceased. South Carolina has the best record of all Southern States—159 in 62 years—and in recent years has had none at all. In the whole nation there were three in 1943; two in 1944; one in 1945. These figures are provided by Tuskegee Institute, the famous Negro school.)

Lynching is simple murder—if the victim dies. No provocation justifies unlawful retaliation. No land can be civilized while men who feel wronged take private revenge Fri. 6-20-47

But we are dealing with human beings—not theories. The way to stop the vicious circle of crime and criminal revenge is to stop crime. It can be done. And the record indicates that lynchings will soon be ended if the job is left to those most concerned.

An FBI man who sat through the Greenville trial said: "That proves the need of a Federal law." He was wrong.

It is axiomatic that the more drastic the law, the more juries will refuse to convict. Whoever makes the law, juries must determine the guilt. Will they be more likely to find a verdict of guilty if they resent and hate the law?

Associated Press

Mon. 6-2-47

AFTER THE VERDICT: HAPPY DEFENDANTS*

The jurors might have been ostracized.

* Defendants Walter T. Crawford, left, and John C. ("Fats") Joy. Mon. 6-2-47

SOUTH CAROLINA

Time

Twelve Men

Chicago, Ill.

30a S.C. (Results)

The famed Greenville lynch trial (TIME, May 26) drew to an end. On the ninth day, haggard from strain, Judge James Robert Martin Jr. read his instructions to the all-male, all-white jury. He minced no words: "A court of law recognizes no color. . . . I instruct you . . . not to allow any so-called racial issue to enter into your deliberations. . . ." The jurors filed out. A door closed behind them. Mon. 6-2-47

The jurors had just seen U.S. jurisprudence rise to brave heights in a Southern courtroom; they had sat before a determined, able prosecutor, a stern and impartial judge. But the jurors were only temporarily a part of the court; they belonged in the little town which lay in the rain outside. If they convicted white men for the lynching of a Negro they would risk social ostracism, perhaps violence.

The jury did not deliberate long. As the twelve men filed in, the courtroom crowd was tense and silent. The foreman rose and handed over four sheets of white paper. The judge read them, flushed, gave them to the clerk. The verdict for all defendants: "Not guilty." The judge ordered the prisoners released. He faced the jury and said: "Mr. Foreman and gentlemen, that concludes your service. . . . The clerk has your checks ready." Then, with no word of thanks, he rose and stalked out.

There were seconds of stunned silence—then the defendants, their wives, attorneys and friends in the crowd stood up in a shouting, back-slapping bedlam.

Judge Acquits Three, Cuts Charges on 7 In S. C. Lynch Trial

PM N.Y. N.Y. Tues. 5-20-47

30a (Results)

GREENVILLE, S. C.

Three defendants who refused to make any statements to police are free today as the South's first mass lynch trials heads toward the jury, with verdict expected tomorrow or Thursday.

Of the 31 Greenville men arrested for the Feb. 17 murder of Willie Earle, 26 had given statements to police admitting membership in the mob but each blamed violence on others. Tues. 5-20-47

Five refused to make any statement and Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., yesterday directed acquittal of thre of them "on grounds of insufficiency of evidence."

Other 2 Face Conspiracy Charge

The two other were among seven defendants whom the judge directed acquitted on charges of murder and being accessories after the fact. He held them liable, however, for continued trial as accessories before the fact and for conspiracy to commit murder.

Twenty-one defendants still face the murder charge. Prosecution hopes for full convictions were dimmed, however, by Judge Martin's further ruling that all 26 "confessions" were admissable as evidence only against the individual making them. Since none of the 26 admitted actual participation in the lynching of Earle—beaten, stabbed and shot after being dragged from Pickens County jail—a good part of the State's case was believed washed away.

The three acquitted were Earl Martin, member of a prominent South Carolina family, and Vardry Norris and Ernest Stokes, two of the 28 taxi drivers among the defendants. Tues. 5-20-47

Named As Knife Wielder

Pock-marked Stokes was described by another member of the mob as having brandished a knife at the lynch scene, crying "I'm gonna put the same scars on that nigger that he put on Mr. Brown"—a Greenville cab driver who died without ever identifying his assailant.

Three of the seven granted partial acquittal claimed that a flat tire kept them from reaching the lynch rendezvous. Two others said they had not witnessed the murder.

Judge Martin had hardly finished reading his five-page ruling before jubilant defendants were pump-handling the acquitted men.

Negroes in the Jim Crow balcony heard the decision in silence.

Amid the tumult—with the judge rapping for order, the chief defense attorney announced: "In view of your ruling, your Honor, the defense rests." No defense witnesses were called. Tues. 5-20-47

Greenville Settles Down After Trial

News & Courier

Charleston, S. C.

30a S.C. (Results)

Fri. 5-23-47

GREENVILLE, May 22. (U.P.): The city of Greenville settled back to normal today after being in the spotlight two weeks as the scene of the nation's biggest lynch trial.

There was mixed feeling about the outright acquittal of the 28 white men who were charged with dragging Willie Earle, a negro, from the Pickens county jail and lynching him the night of February 16.

Dr. C. Frank Pittman, president of the Greenville Christian Ministers' association, said "when men admit they've done a thing, I don't see how you can turn around and acquit them".

But the defendants, most of whom were taxicab drivers, were jubilant as were other cabbies of the city. Fri. 5-23-47

Sonny Brown, a driver who was not involved in the case, said that before Earle was killed, cab companies had experienced trouble with negroes attacking drivers.

"Since then, we've had no trouble at all," he said. "This verdict should teach them a lesson."

Hendrix Rector, one of the defendants acquitted, said joyously that "I'm gonna stay drunk for about four weeks and then I'm gonna run for sheriff of Greenville county in the next election". He would be the third Rector to hold the office. His uncle, Carlos Rector, was sheriff in 1919 and was convicted of manslaughter in the slaying of Sheriff Sam Willis, who beat him for re-election.

Uncle Carlos, now a doddering old man, was on hand to congratulate his hawk-nosed nephew when the verdict was read last night.

The Southern Regional Council condemned the jury's action as "a burden to the conscience of the South".

"To acquit these men in the face of evidence and many signed confessions, strikes a hard blow at the South's already weak foundations of respect for law and justice for all men," the council said in a statement. Fri. 5-23-47

"It is just such irresponsibility as this that makes the nation feel that federal laws are needed to insure the rights of all citizens, regardless of race."

In Spartanburg, the jury verdict touched off a demonstration of about 100 Wofford college students who marched in the streets at midnight bearing slogans reading: "Has justice triumphed?"

The Greenville Piedmont commented in an editorial by Editor Judson Chapman that "however it may appear to the world, close observers agree it was just—according to the law and the evidence".

The editorial added that the mere fact that the men were brought to trial, however, would mean that "cases of this kind are less likely to occur again".

The Negro Newspaper Publishers Association held an emergency meeting in Atlanta today and wired an appeal to President Truman, asking him to recommend to congress immediate passage of federal anti-lynching legislation.

"The country needs and must have a restoration of confidence in the willingness and ability of the state to give equal and adequate protection to all its citizens regardless of race or color," the editors said.

They wired Attorney General Tom Clark that "it is regrettable that the excellent work of your office and the FBI has resulted only in the acquittal of the Greenville lynchers by a jury of their peers. This represents the most flagrant contempt for law, moral consciousness and human decency in modern history of our country." Fri. 5-23-47

NAACP Officer Comments On Lynch Trial Verdict

News & Courier

NEW YORK, May 22. (U.P.): The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said today that South Carolina lynching trial has served notice on negroes of the South that the law is powerless to defend them.

The statement, issued by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the association, said the trial verdict "only adds to the proof that state action cannot be expected to punish lynching. Fri. 5-23-47

"Unless we can secure federal legislation, it is entirely possible that some negroes, abandoned to mobs by the law, may be forced, in their desperation, to devise means of protecting themselves," Wilkins said. Charleston, S.C.

"This would be a lawless and futile gesture, but logical and understandable in the circumstances."

Lynch Victim's Mother To Speak in N.Y. City

New Courier

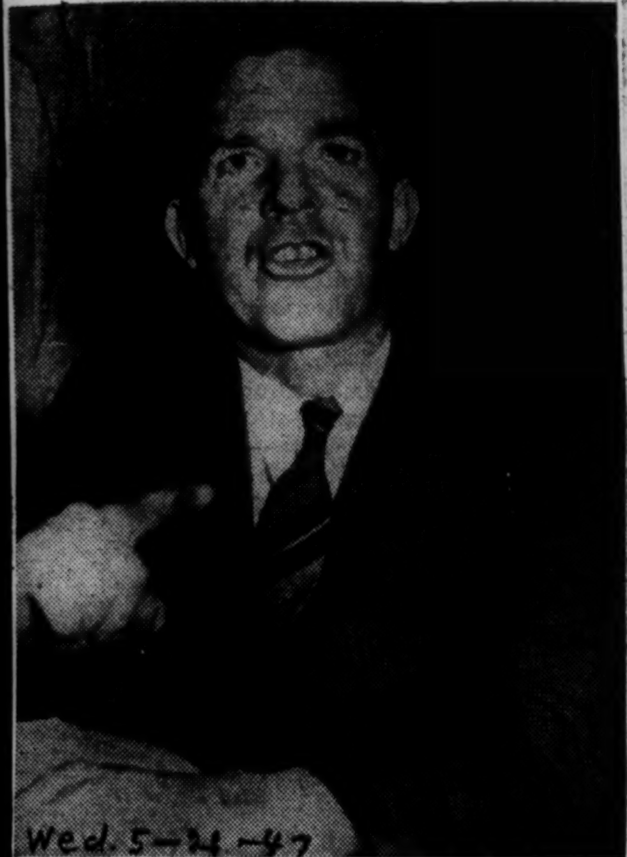
NEW YORK, May 22 (U.P.): The national negro day committee announced tonight that Tessie Earle, mother of Lynch Victim Willie Earle, would speak at a rally at Madison Square Garden May 27 to protest the acquittal at Greenville, S. C., yesterday of the 28 white men charged with the lynching. Charleston, S.C. The rally, originally scheduled as a cancer-relief show, has been revised to include her appearance, the committee said. Fri. 5-23-47

PM
Wed. 5-21-47
N.Y., N.Y.

Chief Bailiff Donald B. Partin, right foreground, leads the lynch trial jury into the courthouse at Greenville, S. C., for closing arguments. Associated Press Wirephotos

Defender Wishes More Like Earle Were Dead

PM N.Y., N.Y.
Wed. 5-21-47
30a (Trial)



Wed. 5-21-47

Thomas Wofford, defense attorney, pleads for acquittal of 28 lynch trial defendants.

GREENVILLE, S. C.

The Willie Earle lynch case goes to the jury today.

An all white-panel of eight textile workers, two salesmen, a farmer and a merchant will debate the fate of 28 white men, mostly Greenville taxi drivers, charged with the lynch murder of a Negro.

Public Prosecutor Samuel Watt, summing up, urged the jury to convict but did not ask for the death penalty.

He said the alleged lynchers "filled their bellies with liquor to give themselves false courage and killed a Negro."

A More Horrible Crime

Wed. 5-21-47

"Let the world know that we have united to stamp out this blot on Greenville County," he urged the jury. "An even more horrible crime would be for you jurors to condone this thing."

John B. Culbertson, for the defense, leaned on the jury box and talked softly.

"I know that you are all good citizens of South Carolina—we understand each other," he coaxed. "Not a soul in South Carolina would criticize you if you turn these boys loose. You are not expected to convict them."

Earlier, Culbertson breathed fire, clashing frequently with Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., who had barred injection of racial issues or pleading of "justification, mitigation or excuse" for the lynch-murder. Wed. 5-21-47

"Willie Earle is dead, and I wish more like him were dead," Culbertson shouted before Judge Martin thundered a halt.

"I didn't refer to Willie Earle as a Negro," said Culbertson, meakly.

"I don't care what you referred to," the court retorted. "I'm warning you it is highly prejudicial."

Culbertson blandly changed his tack, turned back to the jury and said:

"If a mad dog were loose in my community, I would shoot the dog and let them prosecute me."

Defense attorneys made much of the intervention of FBI agents from the North and wanted to know if it was a political plot to lure the Negro vote in Northern cities. They also charged that confessions obtained from 26 of the accused men were obtained by coercion and asked acquittal for the sake of wives and children.

Prosecutor Watt argued that the confessions built up an infallible burden of guilt against the defendants collectively, despite Judge Martin's earlier ruling that they could provide evidence only against their individual authors.

"Can you ignore the damning proof we have given you?" he asked. "There's blood flowing between the lines of each of these statements—blood flowing from the stab wounds in the Negro's body, blood gushing from his head as they beat him with a gun butt—blood as they finally shot him."

Judge Martin planned to deliver a long and detailed charge to the jury today, including an instruction that the jury must determine whether the confessions, backbone of the State's case, were obtained under duress or coercion.

The Shape of Things

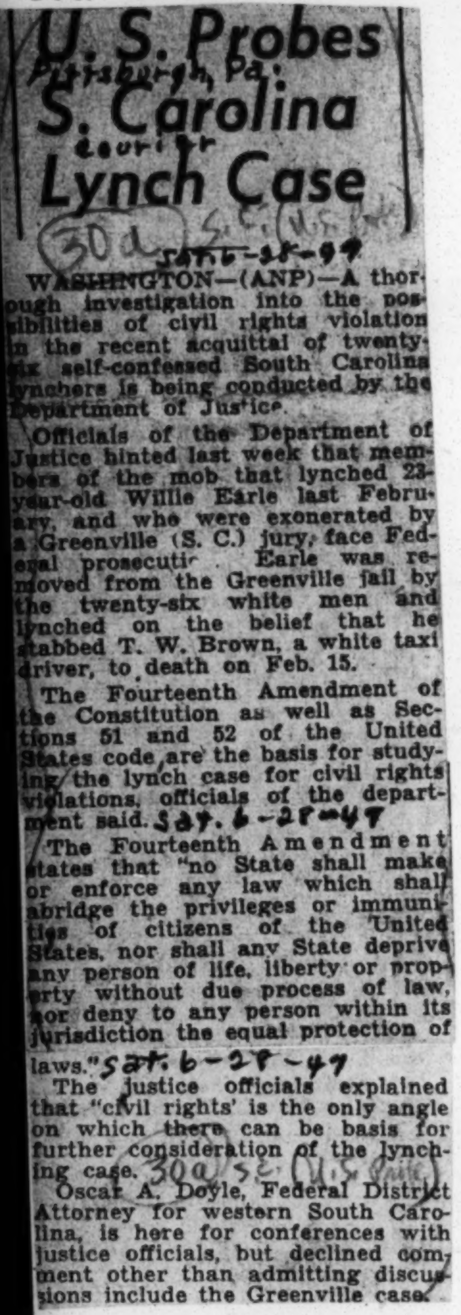
47
30a S.C.
Nation Sat. 5-24-
New York

AS THE TRIAL OF THIRTY-ONE WHITE MEN for the lynching of a Negro enters its second and probably final week in the crowded courtroom of Greenville, South Carolina, it has become evident that one Southern state is determined to end an evil tradition. Veteran trial reporters who came expecting the customary "show" have witnessed a judicial process of which any state might be proud. Thirty-seven-year-old Judge Robert J. Martin, Jr., and the prosecuting and defense attorneys have rigorously observed the rules of court procedure. There has been no disorder, little flamboyant oratory. The case against thirty-one men, twenty-six of whom admitted being members of a lynch party, has been energetically pressed. Since Willie Earle, accused of the fatal stabbing of a Yellow Cab driver last February, was taken from the Pickens County jail, mutilated, and shot to death, events have moved fast. From the beginning, the newspapers demanded action. Governor J. Strom Thurmond assigned as special prosecutor the brilliant solicitor Sam R. Watt, who last year secured the conviction of 471 of the 473 persons he brought to trial. The jury's verdict will likely be handed down this week. It is perhaps too much to expect that inveterate custom will be overturned and white men will be sentenced for a Negro's murder. The jury, faced with the extraordinary circumstance of thirty-one defendants, may return verdicts of varying degrees of severity. But whatever the outcome, the fact stands that the governor, the courts, and the responsible white citizens of South Carolina have made a bold attempt at a new definition of Southern justice. Sat. 5-24-47

30a 1947

South Carolina (U. S. Probe)

7531



U. S. Probes

Pittsburgh, Pa.

S. Carolina

Courier

Lynch Case

30a S.C. (U.S. Probe)

Sat. 6-28-47

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—A thorough investigation into the possibilities of civil rights violation in the recent acquittal of twenty-six self-confessed South Carolina lynchers is being conducted by the Department of Justice.

Officials of the Department of Justice hinted last week that members of the mob that lynched 23-year-old Willie Earle last February, and who were exonerated by a Greenville (S. C.) jury, face Federal prosecution. Earle was removed from the Greenville jail by the twenty-six white men and lynched on the belief that he stabbed T. W. Brown, a white taxi driver, to death on Feb. 15.

The Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution as well as Sections 51 and 52 of the United States code are the basis for studying the lynch case for civil rights violations, officials of the department said. Sat. 6-28-47

The Fourteenth Amendment states that "no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of laws." Sat. 6-28-47

The justice officials explained that "civil rights' is the only angle on which there can be basis for further consideration of the lynching case. 30a S.C. (U.S. Probe)

Oscar A. Doyle, Federal District Attorney for western South Carolina, is here for conferences with justice officials, but declined comment other than admitting discussions include the Greenville case.

Believe Dixie Gang Murdered Young Father

30a(1) Ala.

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 12-20-47

LOWNDESBORO, Ala.--Enraged whites, jealous over the business success of a Negro, are believed to be the lynchers of Elmore Bolling, 30, who was found last week riddled with shot gun and pistol shots.

Operator of a small trucking business valued at $5,000, Bolling had a reputable name in this community. He was married and the father of seven children.

Sat. 12-20-47

It is believed here that more than one person figured in the murder, but Clarke Luckie, white employee of the Producers Commission company, is the only person held. He was released on $2,500 bond.

Luckie vaguely inferred that Bolling "insulted" his wife in a telephone conversation.

Those who "know" say Bolling has long been a "marked man," since he was rated by whites here as "too successful to be a Negro."

30a(1) 1947 Florida

7488

TALE OF MYSTERIOUS LYNCHING:

Father Tells How Two Sons, Farmhand Were Slain by 11

30a! Fla. Afro American

Full Caps

EMPORIA, Va.—The tragic story of how his two sons, one a soldier, and his 19-year-old farm hand were lynched on his Florida truck farm, then buried, the GI in uniform, was unfolded here last week by a 66-year-old Ontario Center, N.Y., man.

The story was bared in an affidavit sworn to by Joe Marks, 66, native of Tuskegee, Ala., but for the past 11 years a resident of Ontario Center, before S. W. Tucker, local attorney and notary public-at-large for the State of Virginia and Greensville County.

Baltimore Md.

Full text of the affidavit follows:

I am Joe Marks, age 66, was born in Tuskegee, Ala., and for the past 11 years have been a resident of Ontario Center, N.Y., where my post office address is c/o General Delivery.

Three years ago, Joe Rutley, white, late of Ontario Center, bought for me and in my name, a farm of 100 acres at Oakwood, Fla., which I have since cultivated as a truck farm.

Joined by Son on Furlough

On or about Jan. 1, 1947, I went to Florida with my son, Red Marks, 24, and Joe Wickerson, 19, and there the three of us operated the truck farm.

In the latter part of February or the early part of March, my younger son, Tobe Marks, 22, then a soldier in the U.S. Army, joined us at the farm to spend his furlough.

On Friday, April 4, about 8 a.m., I vent via bus to Palm Beach (60 miles away) to get parts for my truck. I returned Saturday, April 5, about 6 p.m. and did not find my sons and Wickerson at home.

Seen Carrying Dinner

On inquiring, I learned from (Mrs.) Rose Wood, a colored woman through whose yard we always passed going to and from the farm, that on Friday morning, she had seen the young men, first Red, and later Tobe and Joe, carrying dinner on their way to the field.

Sat 5-24-47

I found pan, bucket and two jars containing dinner, indicating that Tobe and Joe did not get to the field.

On Tuesday, April 29, Charlie Jenkins, colored, told me what had happened:

(That a mob of white men, 11 of whom Jenkins knew, had killed the young men—had killed Red with an axe while he was repairing the tractor and had shot the two younger ones while they were on their way to the field; and had then gone over to Jenkin's field and forced him (Jenkins) to take the bodies away in his truck and bury them.

30a! Fla.

Reports Case to MP's

On Wednesday, April 30, I went to Camp Blanton and reported the matter to the military police there. As I remember there were about four officers, one of them a captain, and several enlisted men.

With the MP's and guided by Jenkins, I went to the place where the young men had been buried and there found their bodies (Tobe in his Army uniform) and another body which someone identified as Red Henderson.

Afro American

Jenkins is in protective custody of the military police at Camp Blanton. The captain said he would take no action until I should make report of the incident, but that he would keep what evidence they have.

Baltimore Md.

Attempted to Withdraw Money

On Thursday, May 1, during banking hours, I went to the First National Bank at Hollywood, Fla., to draw $60 from my checking account and was told to come back the next day.

When I returned home, "Jamison," a man of Swedish accent from Ontario Center, came to me and asked whether I had been to the bank and what transpired.

He seemed to have known that I did not get my money.

Upon his suggestion that he had learned something and that I should not stay there any longer, I rode with him to Jacksonville and from there I have come to Emporia, Va. From Emporia, it is my intention to go on to Ontario Center.

Baltimore Md.

There had been only two previous incidents which might have indicated possibility of trouble:

A white man, unknown to me, wanted to rent a part of my farm and I told him the land was not mine. Another time, a white man whose business is buying beans wanted to buy my beans and I told him that I shipped mine away for sale.

As far as I know or believe, neither of the young men had been involved in any unpleasant incidents of any kind.

Sat 5-24-47

his
Signed: Joe x Marks
mark

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of May, 1947. My commission expires Feb. 6, 1951.

Signed: S. W. Tucker,
Notary Public

(Notary seal and fingerprints of affiant included)

30a(1) 1947 General

7481

ynched or Murdered? (30a(1)) gen

Two Bullet-Riddled Men Believed Lynch Victims

Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 12-20-47

ATLANTA, Ga.—America's impotent defense against mob violence and her exposed position in the world spotlight got another stiff jolt last week as murders of two Negroes, occurring some 400 miles apart, rocked North Carolina and Alabama, with every indication pointing to the deaths as the newest lynchings of 1947!

Courier

Citizens of Lillington, Fayetteville and Dunn, N. C. are aroused over the recent slaying of 36-year-old Charlie Smith of Dunn by a gang of whites who riddled him with bullets and left his lifeless body stretched on a highway. Smith had allegedly had an argument with a white man. The FBI has been asked to probe the killing.

In Raleigh, the State capital, Gov. R. Gregg Cherry refused to send agents of the State Bureau of Investigation to the scene of the crime, although he had been requested to do so. The Tar Heel Governor said he could see no reason for assigning the SBI agents to the case. The coroner tersely declared that Smith met his death "at the hands of an unknown person or persons." Pa

Earlier this year, North Carolina's Governor sent a Northampton County grand jury through all the motions of what portended to be an all-out investigation into the lynch-attempt on Goodwin (Buddy) Bush, finally resulting in complete acquittal of all the white defendants after a "trial" had been held.

Smith was the father of two small children. Daniel Bassford, another Negro, was critically injured at the time of the Smith killing. Wounded and thought to be dead, he was also left at the murder scene, but managed to make his way to the Harnett County Hospital, where he was treated and questioned by officers. His condition continued critical this week.

Meanwhile, more than 400 miles away, near Lowndesboro, Ala., frightened Negroes talk in whispers of the perplexing death of Elmore Bolling, 30-year-old truck driver, who was also found in a ditch with his body riddled by pistol bullets and shotgun fire. A white man, arrested for the slaying, was quickly released on bail of $2,500. Courier

Bolling, a man of excellent reputation and operator of a small trucking business in Lowndesboro, is alleged to have "insulted" the wife of Clarke Luckie, the white man charged with the shooting. The "insult" is alleged to have taken place over the telephone.

Negroes in the community think Bolling was a lynching party victim because of the jealousy of whites over the success of his trucking business. They base their opinions on the fact that while only one man is charged with the shooting, Bolling's body was riddled by both pistol and shotgun missils. That one man could handily operate both weapons caused much conjecture. Pittsburgh, Pa

Negroes, however, are afraid to talk of the Bolling lynching above a whisper, for fear of reprisals should any white persons in the area become further involved with the law. Bolling had been shot six times with the pistol, and then blasted in the back with shotgun fire. / 30a(1)

30a (1) 1947

Georgia

7482

Farmer Shot, Beaten To Death in Prison

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

30a

By Special Correspondent

Sat. 6-7-47

LaGRANGE, Ga.—Negroes in this area were living under a pall of fear and silence last week, following the jailhouse lynching of Henry (Peg) Gilbert at Hamilton in adjoining Harris County. Meanwhile, the father and a brother of Gus Davidson, accused of slaying a white farmer and mill-owner, the incident which set off the chain of fearful incidents, were missing from their home near Union Springs Baptist Church, about ten miles from here.

Gilbert was slain in the Hamilton jail, reportedly by Police Chief Buchanan. His body, however, showed signs of a bashed head, crushed ribs and a broken leg, to undertakers' attendants at both Hamilton and LaGrange. He had been shot four times, also. There was every indication that Gilbert was mobbed, either by officers and others in the jail, or outside the jail and carried back there. The Hamilton undertaker was told to pick up the body at the jail.

BOX SCORE

(Since V-J Day)

LYNCHINGS:	**29**
BEATINGS:	**9**
Arrests of Lynchers:	**48**
Convictions:	**None**

FARMER SLAIN

Accounts in a white LaGrange paper said that Gilbert was shot by the police chief, who had gone into the jail to question him, reportedly on the accusation that he had aided Davidson escape after the white farmer was slain near Union Springs Church. The new account said that the prisoner had taken up a chair and attacked the policeman. But, outsiders know that more than this happened.

Why was Gilbert in the Harris County jail, when he had been arrested in Troup County, his home area where the killing occurred, having been transferred there from the Columbus (Muscogee County) jail, where he allegedly had been carried for safekeeping? This and other things were puzzling Georgians who knew that another lynching had occurred within their midst, although it was likely to be set down as a justifiable slaying by an officer.

The turn of events was something like this:

Olin Sands, a white farmer and mill owner, went to the Union Springs Church, Sunday, May 18, and started beating Gus Davidson with a stick, while accusing him of running over his cow or calf on a highway. Davidson denied driving the vehicle which reportedly hit the animal, but the white man continued beating him. Hurt and angered by the beating being administered him Davidson allegedly took his gun from a car pocket and shot the white man fatally.

LEAVE CHURCH 30a

The scene was thrown in an uproar and churchgoers rushed home, leaving the church lights burning. Nobody notified the police. Later in the evening a white soldier discovered the body and the news spread like wildfire before police arrived some three hours later.

The white folk of this section of Troup County were "white hot" mad.

The next morning they arrested "Peg" Gilbert on a charge that he aided Davidson to get away from the scene of the crime. Gilbert denied this, but was hustled off to Columbus jail, reportedly for safekeeping. Sat. 6-7-47

The community officers then proceeded to arrest the family of Davidson. His father, Lovett; wife, Alicia; a brother, Willie, and a sister, were also carried to Columbus jail. They were reportedly beaten while being questioned as to Gus' whereabouts.

Meanwhile, Atlanta relatives of Gilbert, a 200-acre respectable farmer, heard of his plight. They went to Columbus jail, only to be informed that he had been transferred to Hamilton jail. Rushing back to Hamilton, in Harris County, they found that "Peg" was there, but that no one could get into the jail to see him. A conversation held from the outside to an upstairs enclosed cell revealed that Gilbert had just about given up trying to get out on bond. He hollered to his cousin, Clem Davenport of Atlanta: "It's on use, Clem, I'll never get out."

BATTERED TO DEATH

Early the next morning, Gilbert's battered and lifeless body was turned over to the colored undertaken of Hamilton. After embalming the body, this firm turned it over to a LaGrange undertaker for final arrangements.

At the funeral for Gilbert, there was fear that at any moment a riot would occur. Davidson's father and brother were still missing from the community. There was no certainty that they were in the Columbus jail. A check there said they were not there. One report was that Davidson's brother had been beaten so badly that he could not turn over on his jail bunk. There were other rumors that the Davidsons had been killed.

Mrs. Gilbert returned to her farm in the Union Springs community, determning to make the valuable crop begun by her "independent" farmer-husband. There were only herself and two other young daughters on the farm. They are said to have barely ventured from the house since the funeral, May 27, and no Negroes in the community dared to visit them, so fearful and tense was the situation. Gilbert was the father of four daughters, the oldest being married. It was said that his upstanding life in the church and community determined those who seized him in Davidson's getaway to act. He had fine cattle and hogs on his farm and was not forced to seek the aid of white farmers to finance him and his family from year to year. 30a

Mrs. Gilbert told relatives and newsmen that she was positive that her slain husband had not helped Davidson leave the scene of the Sands slaying.

The Atlanta office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation notified Washington, of the developments. There was little hope, however, that the FBI would abandon its investigator role to protect the frightened citizens of the Union Springs community.

FBI Informed of Terrorism in Georgia

The Call

30a

ATLANTA. — (ANP) — The Atlanta office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was supplied last week with information that relatives of Gus Davidson, alleged slayer of Olin Sands, a white farmer and mill-owner, including his father and a son, have been missing and their whereabouts unknown since arrest following the killing near Union Springs Baptist church, about 10 miles from LaGrange. Fri. 6-13-47

It was the Sands slaying which led to the arrest and lynching of Henry Gilbert, well-to-do Negro farmer, in the Harris County jail at Hamilton nearly two weeks ago. Kansas City, Mo.

Authorities connected with Davison's escape with Gilbert, accusing him of aiding his neighbor escape. Gilbert denied an accomplice role, but was first jailed in Columbus for safekeeping and then carried to the Harris County jail where he was beaten and shot to death, reportedly by the Hamilton police chief. The slaying of the white man was in Troup county, but the lynched man was taken everywhere else.

Relatives attending the funeral of Gilbert at Union Springs church, reported that residents had been seized with fear of reprisals and rioting. Fri. 6-13-47

Chief Agent Edwin Foltz, of the Atlanta FBI, said his office could not give police protection in the Troup-Harris county situation, but that the information had been forwarded to Washington.

Navy Vet and Farmer Lynched in Georgia

Afro-American

30a

Baltimore, Md. Sat. 6-14-47

War Hero Refuses to Say 'Yes, Sir,' Shot Down; Landowner Killed in Jail

ATLANTA—Georgia temporarily but bloodily snatched away the spotlight of racial pogrom from its "proud" rivals, North and South Carolina, last week, when revelations were made of two recent lynchings involving a Navy veteran and a wealthy independent farmer, and exoneration of one of two brothers who beat a Walton county lynching witness.

The Navy veteran, identified as Joe Nathan Roberts, 23, of 1909 N. Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, was shot to death by a mob in Sardin, Ga., because he refused to say "Yes, Sir," and "No, Sir," to whites.

Roberts had been in the South only a week when the mob "thanked" him with bullets of hate for saving them and their fellow Georgians from Adolph Hitler and his murderous gang of Nazi racists. Sat. 6-14-47

Visited Family

The veteran was studying radio at Temple University under the GI Bill when he made the decision to visit his father and mother.

The unreported lynching of Roberts was revealed in a letter to Mrs. Evonia Carn, 923 N. 10th St., Philadelphia, from her mother who lives in Sardin.

Mrs. Carn and her husband were close friends of the Robertses.

Mother Races Mob

The letter said in part:

"A mob came down to the house and got him (Roberts). Joe started running up the railhead towards Mrs. —— home and the mob, which was behind him, shot at him. His mother was running behind him."

The veteran's father and mother, the letter said, were spirited out of town.

A report from La Grange, Ga., said that Henry Gilbert, known in the area as "Peg," a 42-year-old farmer of Troup county, was allegedly slain by Police Chief Buchanan of Hamilton, Ga., in the Harris County jail last Thursday.

He was buried Tuesday.

Gilbert's friends, who are acquainted with the facts leading up to his murder gave two major reasons for it.

Aided Friend, Charge

They reported that Gilbert was accused of aiding Gus Davidson, alleged slayer of a white farmer and mill owner, Olin Sands, who, upon being told that Davidson had run over his cow or calf on the highway, attempted to beat him.

Although Davidson denied killing the animal, Sands proceeded to beat him with a stick. Davidson then allegedly shot the mill owner three times, killing him instantly. Sat. 6-14-47

Feud Near Church

The report of the feud between Davidson and Sands, said it took place in front of Union Spring Baptist Church on May 4 last.

Davidson is said to be still at large, his whereabouts unknown. His family of five—his father and mother, two brothers, and a distant relative—were jailed and later released.

Gilbert suffered a broken leg and rib and several scars and bruises about the face.

Two Mysteries Remain

His friends said he was first taken to a jail in Columbus for safe-keeping, but was transferred later to the Harris county jail at Hamilton.

Two mysteries remain unexplained: (a) Why was Gilbert transferred from the Columbus jail back to the jail in Harris county?

(b) How did Harris county officials come into the picture since the alleged slayer, Davidson, and all the principals are residents in Troupe county?

Whites Jealous

The other reason given by Gilbert's friends for his lynch murder is, jealousy of the white farm families over his success and independence.

They pointed out that Gilbert lived an upright and exemplary life and was respected in the county, being active in church and community activities.

He owned 200 acres of land, a two-horse farm, fine cattle and hogs. Unlike the majority of colored farmers, he did not have to seek the aid of white farmers to finance him and his family.

He was the father of four daughters, the oldest married.

Brother Freed

When informed of Gilbert's murder, the local FBI office in La Grange said that they had the facts.

At Athens, Ga., a Federal court jury on Tuesday acquitted Tom Verner, who with his brother, James, were charged with beating Lamar Howard, a witness in a Walton county lynching inquiry.

The jury failed to reach an agreement as to the guilt of James Verner and Judge Fort Davis declared a mistrial.

The jury was hopelessly deadlocked in spite of the fact that James Verner testified with typical "white trash" arrogance that, "I beat hell out of Lamar Howard." Sat. 6-14-47

He denied Howard's testimony before a Federal grand jury that the lynchings in Walton county motivated the beating.

He told the jury that he had beaten Howard "because he tried to run me off the road with his car several times."

Tom Verner testified that he did not lay hands on Howard, but went with his brother to an ice house where Howard worked and watched while James beat him.

Slain Troup County Negro's Wife Jailed In Terror Reign

30a) Ga. Atlanta Daily World

Mrs. Henry Gilbert Arrested On Charge Of Aiding Escapee

Atlanta, Ga.

LaGRANGE, Ga. —(SNS)— Mrs. Henry Gilbert, wife of the well-to-do Troup county farmer who was lynched last month in the Hamilton (Harris County) jail, has been arrested by police officials on the same charge as placed against her husband, it was revealed Monday.

Officials and members of the Citizens Defense Committee of Georgia, with headquarters in Atlanta, said meanwhile a reign of terror continued in the Troup county area almost a month after a white farmer was slain when he went to a Negro church and attempted to beat with a stick a young colored man whom he accused of running over a claf or cow.

Tues. 6-17-47

Mrs. Gilbert was said to have been arrested by officers on a charge of aiding Gus Davidson, the alleged slayer of Olin Sands, white farmer and mill owner, escape from Troup county. It was on this charge of aiding a prisoner to escape that her husband, nicknamed Pete reportedly was seized, transferred to the Columbus (Muscogee County) jail from Troup county, and later transferred to Hamilton jail, where he reportedly was lynched. A LaGrange newspaper account said that Gilbert was shot by the Hamilton police chief who entered his jail cell to get a confession as a Davidson crime confederate and claimed that he was attacked by the colored man.

BEATEN BODY

Undertakers who embalmbed the body of Gilbert said it appeared that the victim had been beaten and crushed before being shot. His ribs appeared to have been bashed in, the skull fractured and a leg broken, giving evidence of a terrific encounter with more than one person.

The arrest of Mrs. Gilbert came as a surprise in the chain of events of terrorism that have occurred in the Union Springs community following the slaying of the white man. At the funeral of her lynched husband, Mrs. Gilbert told relatives and friends that "Peg" had nothing at all to do with Davidson's escape. He presumably was at the church the night of the slaying, but like the rest of the members fled home following the shooting.

Tues. 6-17-47

Troup county officials, trying to lay the blame on somebody after the alleged slayer fled, seized members of the family of the accused man as well as others in the community, including Gilbert, one of the few independent farmers.

STILL MISSING

Exact whereabouts and the condition of the father, a brother and a sister of Gus Davidson, the accused slayer, has not been revealed since their arrest and incarceration in the Columbus jail. At last reports, Willie Davidson, a brother of the accused, was in such poor condition from beating that he could not turn over in his jail cell.

Even friends of the families of those directly or indirectly involved in the churchyard slaying apparently have been afraid to approach their dwelling places or to associate with them, it has been revealed.

The Citizens Defense Committee, the Rev. W. H. Borders, chairman, has entered the case in an effort to protect involved families from further terrorism and to allay the general fears of the community and state.

Governor M. E. Thompson has been appraised of the seriousness of the situation in Troup county. The Governor has promised to put the forces at his command into an investigation of the lynching and the state of terrorism.

Tues. 6-17-47

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been notified and given facts in the case. The FBI stated it would not be able to give police protection in the terrorized community, but would turn the facts over to Washington.

Mrs. Gilbert was arrested at her farm home early Sunday morning as she and her daughters were preparing to go to Sunday School, and was denied bond until Monday morning. A hearing, set for 10 a.m. Friday morning at LaGrange. A citizens committee, headed by Dr. W. H. Borders of Atlanta has obtained a counsel for Mrs. Gilbert.

Husband Lynched

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

In Ga. Prison

Sat. 6-28-47

30a (2)

Klan-buster Dan Duke Will Defend Farm Woman

By Special Correspondent

ATLANTA, Ga.—Mrs. Caroline Gilbert, wife of the jail-lynched well-to-do Troup County farmer, was seized last week and bound over to Superio Court in LaGrange on the same charge placed against her husband before his untimely death.

The quiet little bespectacled woman, already burdened by the brutality of Central-West Georgia officials toward her husband and getting herself together to sell out their model 110-acre farm about twelve miles out of LaGrange, was a pitiful sight to behold in the Justice of the Peace Courtroom.

Klan-buster, Dan Duke, former State attorney-general who was hired by the Georgia Citizens Defense Committee to defend Mrs. Gilbert, warned Harris and Troup County officials that the lynching of Henry Gilbert last month in the Hamilton jail would not stop there.

REAL LYNCHING

His first investigations had disclosed facts that a real lynching had occurred, as suspected, probably between Troup County and the Harris jail, with officers of the law deeply involved. Sat. 6-28-47

Peculiarly enough, the State's chief witness against Mrs. Gilbert was Lovett Davidson, aged, illiterate father of Gus Davidson, an itinerant cotton-picker, accused of slaying Olin Sands, white farmer and mill operator, when the latter attempted to beat him with a stick on the grounds of the Union Springs Baptist Church.

In jail with several members of his family ever since the slaying and escape of his son-suspect, Lovett Davidson told the court that he had seen his son hiding on the Gilberts' place and that he had told his overseer, Luke Sturdivant, of the matter. Sturdivant, of course, corroborated Davidson's testimony.

MAKES DENIAL

The Troup County Sheriff denied that he had ever been told of Gus Davidson's supposed hiding-out on Gilbert's farm, as claimed in the apparently "fixed up" testimony.

Duke blasted the late serving of the warrant on Mrs. Gilbert, and charged it all as a conspiracy to cover up the "first mistake" of killing Gilbert.

Henry Gilbert's body, picked up by an undertaker at the Hamilton jail, showed signs of having been brutally beaten and shot. He had been seized at his farm on a charge of aiding Gus Davidson to escape from the scene of the Sands slaying. He denied any part in the escape, but was rushed to Muscogee County jail and then back to the Hamilton jail, where the claim was made that he attacked the Hamilton police chief who was allegedly trying to question him concerning the charge authorities had made.

A virtual reign of terror has prevailed in the Union Springs community since the Sands slaying and the arrest of the entire Davidson family as well as the Gilbert lynching in connection with the escape.

Got The Wrong Man ?

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

The reason underlying the slaying of Henry Gilbert last week in Hamilton County jail by an officer of the law will perhaps never be fully known. Nor is it likely that any serious and extended inquiry will be conducted to ascertain why he should be denied his clear civil and constitutional claims to a trial by jury for whatever guilt, if any, he was charged with.

30a) Ga. (Borderline) Tues. 6-3-47

Negroes residing in Troup County, where Gilbert is reported to have lived, claim that he was jailed on Monday morning prior to his slaying on Wednesday night because he was suspected of aiding another Troup County Negro, Gus Davidson, in escaping the law in connection with his alleged slaying of a white man, Olin Sands, Troup County farmer and mill owner. It is not clear just how Gilbert, more than some others present at the church at the time of the alleged slaying, should be singled out. Nor can they explain why Hamilton County officials, instead of Troup County officers, were called into the case. And there are many other baffling angles to the death of Gilbert which probably will never come to public view. Questions as to his badly bruised body, for example, together with a broken leg and rib, will come at once to the minds of fairminded citizens.

It is going to be difficult to escape the conelusion that this is, in the technical sense, a lynching. And sensible peeople will brush aside as the sheerest none sense, the explanation that Gilbert, in the very hands of enforcement officials and in jail to boot, pounced upon them and therefore had to be shot. That sort of courage is too unlikely in a 42 year-old Negro who probably has barely been out of the state in his entire life. Such action on the part of a Negro born and steeped in fear not only of law enforcement officers but white person is incredible. For in truth the whole plantation system in the South is more or less maintained by fear and intimidation. Tues. 6-3-47

In an address last week, Acting Governor Thompson called for reduction of racial tensions in the state by sympathetic understanding and cooperation on the part of all groups. In a statement more direct and forceful, Attorney Robert Troutman, President of the State Bar Association declared that white Georgians owned an inescapable obligation to minorities to defend their right to honest and fair treatment, including his right to the ballot. But in spite of the good intention of their statements, unless the mass of white Georgians think similarly, its going to be mighty hard to inspire confidence in life where Negroes live in constant fear of their lives.

30a(1)1947 Georgia

7483

PROSPEROUS GEORGIA FARMER BEATEN TO DEATH IN HARRIS JAIL

Black Dispatch — Oklahoma City, Okla.

Charged Slain Man Assisted Gus Davis To Evade Sheriff

30a Ga. (1) ([illegible])

ARGUMENT STARTS OVER DEAD COW

Sat. 6-14-47

ATLANTA, June, — (NNPA) — With race tension running high in Troup and Harris counties because of the beating to death of Henry Gilbert in the Harris County Jail, Chief Agent Edwin Foltz of the Atlanta Federal Bureau of Investigation, said here last Tuesday that he could not give protection in the situation that had developed but had notified the FBI in Washington.

Funeral services for Gilbert prosperous Troup County farmer were held at the Union Springs Baptist church in Troup county about ten miles from LeGrange last Tuesday.

Relatives who attended the funeral services reported that residents of the county were seized with fear of reprisals and of a race roit.

Gilbert was arrested Monday, May 19, on a charge of aiding Gus Davidson, the alleged slayer of Olin Sands, a white farmer and mill-owner, get away from the scene and the county.

Sat. 6-14-47

Sands was said to have gone to the Union Springs church and to have started beating Davidson with a stick, accusing him of running over a cow or calf on a highway. Davidson denied the accusation. In the altercation that followed, Sands was shot three times and died instntly. Davison escaped.

Authorities connected Davidson's escape with Gilbert, accusing him of having aided his neighbor. Gilbert denied the accusation, but was arrested and first jailed in Columbus for safekeeping, then, for some unexplained reason, he was taken to the Harris county jail.

30a Ga. Sat. 6-14-47

Gilbert was beaten to death in the Harris county jail. Clem Davenport, a cousin of Gilbert's, said that Gilbert's head had been bashed in, his ribs crushed and a leg broken, indicating that he had been beaten to death by a mob of several people. ([illegible])

The Atlanta office of the FBI was given information that relatives of Davidson, including his father and a son, have been missing and their whereabouts unknown since the killing occurred. Willie Davidson, a brother of the alleged killer, was reported to be in jail in Columbus unable to turn over from a severe beating given him. The wife of the alleged killer had been reportedly released upon advice of a physician.

Mrs. Gilbert was said to have returned to her Troup county farm with the determination of completing the crop already begun on the 200-acre farm. The Gilberts were said to be independent livers, not having to borrow from nearby white farmers to finance him and his family. His life was one of exemplification for the entire community, according to reports.

Clark Mum On Investigation, Says Local FBI

30a(1) Miss

Defender

Chicago, Ill

Police 'Baffled;' Case Continues Withous Arrests

BULLETIN

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Contrary to an Associated Press report, FBI agents have not been assigned to investigate the Aberdeen, Miss., lynch attempt of last Sunday night when a mob of whites seized and tried to kill John Lloyd, Negro farmhand, in an alleged attack case. The Memphis office FBI told the Chicago Defender that it has not been ordered to conduct a probe of the incident by the attorney general.

ABERDEEN, Miss. — No arrests have been made of mob members who beat, cut and shot a 43-year-old Negro farmhand last Sunday night as aftermath of a white woman's unsubstantiated story that a Negro attempted to attack her the previous night.

Sat. 11-8-47

No Progress

Sheriff Andy O. Hill, in charge of the investigation, said no progress has been made in the effort to locate the men and Chief of Police John Barrett said his officers have so far been baffled in their search.

John Lloyd was seized last Sunday by a mob of from 30 to 50 white men about three hours after he was released following an all day grilling. The men broke into his cabin, dragged him out, struck him down with clubs and pistol butts, cut him, and fired two .38 calibre slugs into his body to finish him off.

To the dismay of mob members, Lloyd was found alive by friends, who rushed him to an Aberdeen Hospital where his condition is described as "improved." Police officers now say that Lloyd is innocent adding, however, that Lloyd could identify none of his assailants.

Sat. 11-8-47

Tells [illegible] 'Incident'

The white woman, Mrs. Arlan-[illegible] Roebuck, 54-year-old seamstress whose husband is an invalid, told police that she was walking home alone last Saturday night about 8:40 p.m., when two Negroes fell in step behind her. She said that just one block from the city hall on the town's main street one of the men passed her and the other seized her.

One of the men put his hand over her mouth, she continued. She declared she managed to free herself and scream before the man could attack her.

Bloodhounds put on the trail led police to Lloyd's hut where he was arrested and taken to the city jail. He was released after an hour of "third degreeing" but was picked up the following day and questioned all day. Convinced of Lloyd's innocence, officers released him shortly after 5 o'clock Sunday and three hours later the mob found him at his home.

THE CALL TO FREEDOM

Chicago Defender

The same dispatches which brought us last week the announcement that President Truman had officially received the sweeping report of his Committee on Civil Rights also brought us an account of mob violence against a citizen of color in Aberdeen, Mississippi.

30a(1) Chicago, Ill.

The report proposes positive action on the part of the Federal government to safeguard our civil rights and recommends new curbs on mob violence. The mob story from Aberdeen, Mississippi, provides another link in the long chain of proof that the need for these safeguards is self-evident.

The story out of Mississippi revealed that a mob of twenty white men beat and twice shot a Negro farm hand, John Lloyd, whom they suspected of having attempted to attack a white woman. The Negro was left for dead but was found alive in a critical condition. Police Chief John Barret of Aberdeen declared: "My investigation shows the Negro was not at the scene at the time of the attempted attack." John Lloyd was beaten nearly to death not because of any action of his own but because he was born a citizen of color.

The report submitted to the President in Washington is a call to the American people to accept the challenge of ruthless racism which has for so long crippled our democracy and reduced some citizens to a state not far removed from savagery. This new blueprint for freedom is in essence a restatement of the basic principles which undergird our political system and which distinguish our form of government from totalitarianism, whether on the right or the left. It is a call to freedom which must be heeded.

Sat.

We suffer from no illusions regarding either the magnitude of the task that must be done to achieve "freedom from fear" or the willingness of the Congress and the administration to act upon the facts before them. We do believe, however, that this report gives some evidence that our cause is marching on.

11-8-47

We are mindful also of that ancient apothegm which holds in effect that he who would be free must help free himself. Our democracy provides through the ballot box an instrument of incalcuable power. It is therefore incumbent upon us, wherever possible, to back up our voice with our votes. We may not achieve full citizenship and individual liberty overnight but we can be sure that we will never achieve it all if we leave the job wholly up to the other fellow.

30a(1) 1947

New Jersey

7485

Suspect Pleads Fear for Wife

Afro-American 30a(1)

Baltimore, Md.

NJ

Tennessean's Story Swallowed by Press

FACTS REFUTED

Sat. 6-28-47

Citizens Demand Full Prosecution

By Staff Correspondent

PRINCETON—The slaying of a 19-year-old war veteran on the night of June 9, by an unemployed farmhand who recently arrived in this section from Tennessee, bears many of the earmarks of a lynching, the AFRO learned this week.

The almost-decapitated body of young Harvey Hoagland of 255 John St. was buried on Friday afternoon after services at Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, while James Roberts, his alleged assailant, was being held on a charge of murder.

Doors were being pounded continuously, down in the Witherspoon-Birch Ave. section, following the services, as aroused citizens covered the area with petitions demanding that the slayer be prosecuted to the fullest extent for the tragic occurrence on lower Harrison Ave.

Incident Arouses Whites

White and colored citizens of this staid old university town were affixing their signatures to the petitions. Sat. 6-28-47

Bitterness and resentment prevail too, because of the one-sided and distorted stories surrounding the tragic happening on the banks of Carnegie Lake circulated by the daily press and wire services.

Stories in Variance

The original story of the fatal evening was to the effect that Roberts and his wife, Margie were visiting Charles Watts and his wife, who live in a ramshackle frame house that formerly housed the bridge tender of the now unused Delaware and Rariton Canal.

Around 12:30 a.m., on June 10, according to Roberts's story to the Princeton Township police and county authorities, a group of picnickers passed the premises, creating a disturbance, and Watts went out to ask them to be quiet because his five children were asleep.

There was a quarrel, he said, and Watts was struck. He then went inside, got a double-barreled shotgun and returning, fired over the heads of the crowd.

Favorite Dixieland Excuse

Then, Roberts's story continued, about six men ran after his wife one of them saying, "There she is and I'll get her."

During a scuffle that followed, he told police, his wife's eyeglasses were torn from her face, at which time he fired low into the group, without any intention of shooting anyone. It was this blast, allegedly, that killed Hoagland instantly.

Picnickers Refute Tale

The AFRO learned, however, through interviews with more than 20 of the nearly 60 boys and girls who had been on an all-day outing on the Mill Bridge Peninsula, that the ill-fated night was one of stark terror.

Members of the group were forced to dive into the waters of Carnegie Lake to escape gunfire,and two girls, in fear of their lives, trekked through the dark woods to Kingston, four miles away, it was revealed.

It was also related that the shotgun blast allegedly fired by Roberts was one of three shots. Two other gunflashes seen by several of the party apparently came from within the dilapidated house.

At least 10 members of the party contended that they saw three guns in the hands of Watts, Roberts and Roberts's wife, with the latter holding a 22-calibre rifle.

Slaying Suspect Tennessean

The Watts family is well known here. Charles Watts has been employed recently as a taxi-cab operator. Sat. 6-28-47

Vet Served 2 Years

Hoagland, who had served two years in German, was discharged from the army just three months ago.

Hoagland is survived by his mother, Mrs. Grace G. Hoagland; two sisters, Mrs. Grace Young of this borough; and a brother, Paul L., also of Princeton.

N.C. Chalks Up One More Mob Killing; Parties Known

30a(1) Afro American Baltimore, Md.

RALEIGH, N.C. — Answering the request of T. V. Mangum, president of the North Carolina Conference of the NAACP, Governor Cherry said that there is no mystery in the killing of Charlie (Bud) Smith, 36, by a mob of white men because all parties involved are known. Sat. 12-13-4

Smith was fatally shot and a companion, Daniel Bassford, seriously wounded recently in Dunn. No one has been apprehended.

The NAACP official had asked the Governor to send the State Bureau of Investigation into Lillington and Harnett County to investigate the incident, because the citizens in those areas are very much upset. Sat. 12-13-47

Called Ambush Affair

Although the local daily calls the killing an ambush affair with the authorities not knowing who did it, colored people of the community tell a different story.

According to them, Smith got into an argument with a white man at a filling station. The latter left the scene and returned with some of his relatives and others, all armed with guns. One of the gang struck Carl Cameron, an innocent passerby, and knocked him to the ground. 30a(1) N.C.

After someone explained that he was not the man. the men left. Later Smith's lifeless body was found on the highway. Smith was the father of two children.

Bassford, his companion. who was left for dead, managed to get to the Harnett County Hospital.

NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR DECLINES TO ACT IN LYNCHING

12-19-47 Fri. 30a(1)

December 19, 1947

New York, Dec. 18th—R. Gregg Cherry, Gov. of the State of North Carolina, has written Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, in which a lynching in North Carolina had been called to the attention of the Governor, stated: "...it does not appear that this is a case which is of a nature that the Governor could accomplish anything."

On December 10, 1947, Mr. White had written to Governor Cherry that at Angier, North Carolina, on Saturday, November 22, 1947, a mob of white men set upon and killed a Negro, Charlie (Bud) Smith, allegedly in reprisal for an argument which he had previously had with one of the members of the group assaulting him. A friend of the deceased, Daniel Lee Bassford, also a Negro, was seriously injured as a result of this brutal attack and is presently hovering between life and death in a local North Carolina hospital. Press Service NAACP New York, N.Y.

Mr. White's letter went on to state that a summary coroner's inquest was held and a verdict of "death at the hands of unknown persons" was returned. The letter requested the Governor of North Carolina to take steps to apprehend the guilty parties. 12-19-47- Fri.

Governor Cherry's letter, after stating, "...it seems that the principles involved in the alleged offences are known as set out in your letter" then went on to say that, "...The offence does not have the earmarks of a lynching."

In commenting upon this letter, Mr. White stated: "It is inconceivable that Governor Cherry, after admitting knowledge of this incident, should conclude that the brutal murder of a Negro by a mob of vicious white men is not lynching and that therefore he can do nothing."

Mr. White again called upon Gov. Cherry to exercise his executive power and require officers of the State to intervene and investigate this lynching.

'Daily' Demands Action on Latest Lynching

30a(1)

The Daily Worker yesterday demanded an official investigation of the lynching of Versie Johnson, Negro sawmill worker, at Prentiss, Miss., last Friday, and punishment for the lynchers. Daily Worker

Johnson, an un-armed prisoner, was publicly executed by a sheriff and two deputies, while he was in their custody on a "rape" charge. Three bullets struck him at once.

more on lynching
—See Back Page

No coroner's inquest was held. "Wasn't necessary," explained Sheriff G. O. Berry of Jefferson Davis County, Miss., in a long distance conversation with the Daily Worker Saturday.

The Daily Worker yesterday sent telegrams to Gov. Fielding L. Wright at Jackson, Miss., and to Tom Clark, U. S. Attorney General at Washington, D. C., demanding an investigation of the killing and prompt trial and punishment for the killers.

The wire to Clark, signed by John Gates, editor of the Daily Worker, said: New York, N.Y.

The federal government has a responsibility to stop the wave of lynchings in the South. We ask you to investigate the killing of a Negro sawmill worker, Versie Johnson, who was shot to death by Sheriff G. O. Berry of Jefferson Davis County and two deputies at Prentiss, Mi[illegible] Friday night.

No inquest was held over the slain Negro. He was shot down by three armed officers on the pretext that he — an unarmed man—reached for one of the officer's guns.

Johnson was accused of "rape." But he had no chance to answer the charge before a jury of his peers. He was killed, while a hostile crowd stood around. We ask you to act.

Gates' wire to Gov. Wright at the Governor's mansion at Jackson, Miss., Follows:

Are Negroes' lives so cheap that no inquest is needed when colored men are shot to death by officers? We ask you to investigate the killing of Versie Johnson, who was shot to death by Sheriff G. O. Berry of Jefferson Davis County, and two deputies, at Prentiss, Miss., Friday night. Mon. 8/4/47

Johnson is being buried without an inquest, and without any official investigation of the slaying. He was an un-armed prisoner, when slain. He had no chance to answer the charge of "rape," brought against him, before a jury of his peers. But you, Gov. Wright, have a duty to stop this wave of killings that stains the good name of your state.

Johnson was killed almost instantly when bullets struck him in the head, neck and chest. The shots were fired by Sheriff Berry and deputies J. S. Puckett and Andy Hopkins.

Berry's story is that the group fired when Johnson made an unsuccessful lunge for Puckett's gun.

The sheriff told the Daily Worker that the woman, who had been allegedly attacked, was "doing very nicely." Berry refused to divulge her name.

A mob, which Berry called an "orderly crowd," had massed around the jail, where Johnson and eight other Negroes were imprisoned. They were seized during a round-up of colored men in the little village after the story of the alleged rape was circulated.

Berry said the killing occurred during an "investigation" at the scene of the alleged attack.

Lynching As A Failure

Columbia Record 30a(1)

Fortunately for their victims, Southern lynching mobs are proving themselves rank amateurs. They are bungling the job. S.S. Miss.

There was that North Carolina mob which allowed the Negro prisoner it had taken from a jail to escape unscratched. And now there is a Mississippi mob which tried to lynch a 43-year-old Negro farm worker. The 30 men, composing the mob, left their victim for dead, but officers found him still alive and took him to a hospital where he is expected to survive. Thrus.

The would-be victim, John Lloyd, was arrested as a suspect in an assault on a 54-year-old white woman, but was released after questioning when the officers were convinced that he had nothing to do with the crime and knew nothing of it.

As far as Mississippi is concerned, however, the lynching that failed was still a lynching, an attempt on the part of a small group of irresponsibles to take into their own hands the law of Mississippi, affronting the courts and the officers of Mississippi. 10-30-47

The members of the mob are saved by their fortunate bungling arrest for murder, although every one of the mob members are murders at heart. But Mississippi should arrest them for assault, try them and convict them. S.C.

The remedy for lynching is the conviction of lynchers and the remedy for would-be lynching is the arrest and conviction of would-be lynchers.

30d(1) 1947 Florida 7535

Justice Comes To Florida

30d(1)

the Florida Tattler

The Florida Senate recently announced confirmation of Governor Caldwell's suspension of Constable Tom A. Crews of Suwannee County. Sat. 6-7-47

Crews was convicted in federal court and sentenced to one year's imprisonment and fined $1,000 for violating a Negro's civil rights. Jacksonville, Fla.

The federal court trial came after a state grand jury investigating the death of the Negro, whose body was found floating in the Suwannee River near Branford, had reported it was unable to determine responsibility for the death.

LYNCHER ACQUITTAL CENSURED BY PRESS

New York, N.Y.

Some Southern Papers Join in Calling Greenville Verdict 'Shameful' and 'Shocking'

30d Sat. 5. 24-47

By The Associated Press.

Many of the country's newspapers described a jury's acquittal on Wednesday of twenty-eight men in the Greenville, S. C., mass lynching trial as disgraceful, shocking or shameful, but several expressed the belief, editorially, that the state's effort to convict the defendants would serve as a precedent and a warning in the future.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune, highly critical of the verdict as were some other Southern newspapers, said that it "must shock every law-abiding citizen in the South."

"As for 'Northern interference,' this is one instance in which that frequently valid protest holds no water whatever," The Times-Picayune stated. "This was a Southern matter, and right poorly was it dealt with."

The New York Herald Tribune said that "mob law was at least brought to trial," adding:

"Such progress may seem slight enough, but it is significant and one may believe that there is both warning and encouragement to the future in the events at Greenville."

The Chicago Sun said that "they made some propaganda for the Russians in Greenville, playing right into the hands of anybody who wants to magnify the shortcomings of American democracy."

The Washington Post stated that "a jury of neighbors looked at these men and found themselves mirrored among them, heard the story of what they had done and decided there was nothing wrong in it."

New York, N.Y.

In Kentucky, The Louisville Courier-Journal said that the acquittals were "the sort of thing that in effect continues, in the face of reason, to deny that the South is part of the United States. But the South is a part of the United States. There cannot be two codes of decency, or double standards of democracy or rights."

The Minneapolis Times said that "this is perfect proof that the spirit of justice is dead in Greenville, S. C., and that its citizens live in the shadow of a great shame, where the American tradition of equality under law has been ually burlesqued."

In St. Paul, Minn., The Dispatch stated that "Southern Senators filibuster every time an anti-lynch bill is brought in. Then occurs a Greenville case to show the 'South's business,' thus protected from Northern interference, is mob rule and lynch law."

Describing the acquittal "a national disgrace," The Denver Post said that "it is the kind of justice which has led to the demand for a Federal anti-lynching law, and it makes us wonder what will happen now to Southern insistence that no national action is needed to curb mob barbarity."

Terming the verdict a "failure of the jury," The St. Louis Post Dispatch said that "justice for all men is gaining acceptance. It will prevail when twelve jurors can be found who will neither be misled nor frightened."

The Kansas City Star ascribed the acquittal to a "jury which obviously was swayed by prejudice. Nevertheless this one determined effort in behalf of law and order will carry its warning for the future."

The Atlanta Journal condemned the jury's findings as "a verdict for anarchy" in which the law was lynched.

The Charlotte, N. C., News said that "the verdict of the jury was the product of an ingrained prejudice that defies the laws of God even as it defies the laws of South Carolina.

"Those who are concerned with retribution may regard the trial in Greenville as a failure. But in the light of history it appears as a triumph—an impressive demonstration that responsible South Carolinians have not lost sight of the ideal of impartial justice set forth by their own laws. The barriers of prejudice still stand between the ideal and the realization but they have been measurably reduced.

Jones

The Nashville Tennesseean stated that as a result of the trial "fewer would-be mobbers, we believe, will be inclined henceforth to take the risks."

The Atlanta Constitution said that "the conscience of the nation is shocked. Unless the people demonstrate a willingness to uphold the law against lynching we cannot and should not escape a Federal law."

Similarly, The Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald said that "as much as most Southerners disapprove of Federal intervention, the verdict will increase the feeling even in the South that some other methods than those now available must be found when Negroes are murdered by white mobs."

Likewise, The Baltimore Evening Sun said that "every Southern lynching unpunished intensifies the demand for a Federal anti-lynching law."

The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch stated that "the whole South, the whole nation must hang its head in shame over the verdict."

Calling the acquittal "a sad day for justice and the South," The Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal said that it was a "rebuke to the decency of that vast majority in the South who believe in maintenance of law and order and who rightfully oppose summary punishment of any kind."

30d gen.

London Papers Censure Verdict

LONDON, May 23 (AP)—South Carolina's lynching acquittals won front-page space in Britain's tightly rationed newspapers today and The Daily Express said:

"Trial by fury remains the unwritten law of America's South."

Under headlines such as "Death Men Go Free—and Hold Carnival," London papers recounted the trial's history which, The Daily Mail said, revived "America's No. 1 problem—that of the attitude of the white to the Negro population."

Sat. 5. 24-47

30d(1) 1947

Northern

7536

Praise for Tom Clark

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark, tall and determined Texan, deserves high praise for his promptness in dealing with mob violence. 30d(1) Northern

No other Attorney General that we can recall has done more to promptly rush operatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of mob scenes to aid local authorities to get evidence and apprehend lynchers.

When two Negro couples were lynched by a mob near Monroe, Ga., Mr. Clark rushed his operatives down there and kept them there hunting clues until it was established beyond question that none of the townspeople could be persuaded to talk. Sat. 6-7-47

Willie Earle was scarcely cold before the FBI men were on the scene in Greenville, S. C., getting confessions from the lynchers.

It was not through any negligence of the Department of Justice that those lynchers were acquitted.

Scarcely had the news been broadcast that Buddy Bush had been snatched from the Jackson (N. C.) jail, than Clark's men were on the scene running down clues that led to the apprehension of the culprits.

In several other cases the Attorney General has shown that he is opposed to mob violence and is doing everything possible to discourage it with the forces at his disposal. 30d(1) N.

Ordinarily the Attorney General would deserve no praise for doing his duty, but so few of his predecessors have done so where Negroes were concerned that we believe commendation is in order. Sat. 6-7-47

Mr. Clark could have mouthed the alibis of the U. S. Attorney Generals who preceded him and contended that they were not authorized to act in lynching cases, but instead he moved with dispatch and forthrightness, and did all that he possibly could to bring lynchers to justice.

For this adherence to duty in the face of much Southern criticism we believe that he deserves high praise.

LYNCHERS GET OFF

Michigan Chronicle

The acquittal of the mobsters charged with the lynching of a Louisiana oil refinery worker and the beating of a colored youth will not stop the fight for justice in the lynch belt. The jury which freed the lynchers was led to believe that to punish these mobsters would be tantamount to supporting the doctrine of racial equality. Apparently the jurors could not overcome their prejudices despite all the evidence that had been piled up before them.

The Defense Attorney skillfully played upon their emotions in making such statements as "this prosecution was fomented and started up North, aimed and abetted by the FBI." The U.S. District Attorney, however, stated the case in its true light when he declared, "This is not a question of social rights or economic rights. It is a question of God-given rights." Detroit, Mich. Sat. 3-15-47

Here is the core of the trouble. Every move to abolish the criminal oppression of the Negro is played up in the South as the work of "outside agents" who are trying to bring social equality and destroy segregation. The FBI is even included in the condemnation of "outsiders." One would get the impression that in these sections of the country, the federal government itself is suspected of plotting against the South. This indicates the depth of racism and the magnitude of our fight for first class citizenship. 30d(1) Northern Sat. 3-15-47

In Detroit last week Governor Arnall predicted that the next great wave of liberalism will come out of the South. When we consider what happened in Minden, Louisiana, last week, we can only express our hope that Governor Arnall is right. There is no section of the United States which needs more liberalism than Dixie.

Green Light To Lynchers

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

In freeing the mob of self-confessed lynchers, South Carolina gave the "go ahead" sign to other would-be masked men and an armed band in neighboring North Carolina was quick to respond to the signal. 30d(1)

The decision in Greenville was a travesty on democracy, on justice and upon the jury system. From a "jury of his peers," an accused man theoretically receives the highest degree of justice but a juror is supposed to be impartial. He should hear the facts with an open mind and make his decision according to the evidence.

But in Greenville, the jurors had their minds all made up before they heard one bit of evidence. Were it not so, they could not have set Scot free 28 men who themselves admitted that they were in the group of men who killed Willie Earle. Those written confessions were placed before the jury. They were not denied by the accused men! In fact, the defendants introduced not a single bit of testimony and presented not a single witness. The only evidence that the jury had before it was the written confessions. Yet it freed the men! If all juries disregarded evidence in such fashion, it would not be long before the decent American people would bring about an end to the jury system. Fri. 5-[illegible]-47

Instead of listening and weighing the evidence, the jurors listened to and were influenced by the defense counsel's ranting and raving about "northern meddlers" and the "interfering FBI." The lynchers' lawyer was typical of counsel who find themselves without a good case. If they can't win on the facts, they bring up a prejudice and appeal to the baser instincts of the jury.

The South Carolina lynchers were each charged with murder, conspiracy to murder and of being an accessory before the fact. It may have been impossible to have convicted all of the men of murder since only one of them actually fired the shot which killed the youth. But certainly all of the men, by their own confessions, were guilty of conspiracy to murder. Eight of the lynchers even named the "trigger man" but Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., ruled these statements out, saying that only a man's own confession could be used against him, that what another defendant said did not count. But even in the face of the judge's ruling that a man's confession could be used against him, the jury still set the admitted lynchers free. Fri. 5-30-47

Most lynchings have been "white-washed" on the excuse that members of the mob could not be identified. No such excuse can be made in the Greenville case. The mob members not only were known by name but they made written confessions of their guilt. It would have been better had South Carolina never arrested the men at all, on the pretext of not being able to find them, than to have made a mockery of the trial by jury system. For a lynching to get the sanction of the court is an outrage.

The introduction of the new anti-lynching bill in Congress could not have been more timely. The South's first attempt at bringing a lynch mob to trial was such a dismal failure that passage of a federal bill to punish lynchers should gain immediate nation-wide support.

30d(1) 1947 Southern

7537

PREACHERS CAN STOP LYNCHING

The Christian Index
Jackson, Tenn.
Thur. 6-19-47

LYNCH terror again grips the South. No community, no home, no Negro is safe. Terror is on the rampage; riots and lynching go hand in hand. Negroes are no longer afraid, but are bitter and ready to retaliate. Only the influence of the Church and sane counsel of Negro ministers and other leaders prevent more serious conflicts. But this cannot go on indefinitely; something positive and constructive must be done other than just prevent lynching or riots.

30d(1) Southern

One factor involved in increased lynchings is the alarming increase of rape and sex crimes througnout the nation. Sex maniacs seem to lurk in every city in every village and in every farm community. Thousands of rape cases are not reported.

It needs to be emphasized that rape and sex crimes are not race problems but are general and prevalent among all races. There is no evidence that sex crimes are more prevalent in any one race than another.

The alarming increase of sex crimes indicates that we are entering deeper into a period of moral degeneration and collapse. It is alarming because our daughters, our women and even our little children are no longer safe on the street nor at home. Thur. 6-19-47

Rape is a pathological problem. But we cannot remain blind to the immediate relation of drinking liquor and committing rape crimes. We know too well that liquor crazed minds lose sexual and moral control. We know that total increase of sex crimes correspond closely with the increase of liquor consumption. It is most tragic that one drink too many can at any time cause just one person to commit an act that can cause lynching, rioting and conflict in any community.

It seems that the present time calls for good old American common "horse sense." It calls for sane thinking and action on part of all races.

Rape is a dastardly act, regardless to what race the criminal belongs. It can be no worse to be raped by one of another race than to be raped by a person of your own race. Lynching nor any other form of punishment can effectively deter a sex crazed mind from carrying out his act.

There is a need for united effort among sane and sensible leaders to study and work out remedies to check sex crimes, lynching and other social evils.

Preachers can prevent lynchings and riots if they act before a situation arises. Here is an unquestionable chance for the C. M. E. preachers to live up to the heroic tradition of our church in establishing cordial and mutual relations between the races in the South.

This is no time for the "Uncle Tom" hat-in-the-hand appeaser. Nor is it the time for the rash, hot heads who wish to throw caution to the winds and shoot it out. Either extreme would bring more disaster and discontent. The greatest need in the South is a good workable everyday clearing house where sane and influential leaders of both races can effectively work together in solving the problem and preventing conflicts from arising. The Church is such a clearing house. The church is the appropriate clearing house of social sins as well as individual sins. The church can stop lynchings; if it cannot, nothing else can. Thur. 6-19-47

White ministers are becoming more and more courageous in taking a stand against social injustices. Few Negroes realize what sacrifice, ostracism and suffering southern white ministers must often undergo when they take such stands. We, as Negro ministers can become more skilled in taking the initiative to seek the co-operation and mutual fellowship of our white fellow ministers. Like our fathers we can become more skilled in winning their respect, their confidence and good will in establishing better race relations. White ministers are becoming effective in checking lynching and racial injustice; we must become more active in working with them.

30d (1) 1947

Southern

7538

South Gets Davis' Sympathy In Desperate Efforts To Show Greenville Trial Had Good Intentions

30d(1) Southern

Journal And Guide

By ARTHUR P. DAVIS

Norfolk, Va.

WHEN I read the editorial comments on the Greenville trial by the nation's leading papers, I feel sorry for decent white southerners (and there are many like Judge Martin, in spite of appearances to the contrary). I feel sorry for them because, as a Negro, I can understand their shame. It is the kind that every decent colored person experiences when he sees black crime played up in the news. Sat. 6-7-47

The Negro knows that in the eyes of America he has been "lumped" (all coons look alike). Constantly on trial, he is morbidly sensitive about making a good showing; he consequently feels a deep and personal hurt whenever one of his group does something particularly vile.

The decent white southerner has come to have the same feeling about Dixie violence and for the same reason, because the rest of the nation has also "lumped" the South. To the North and to the West, the South is a "peculiar" region—peculiar in a semi-romantic, semi-barbarous way. It is a place where anything can happen. In the movies and on the stage and radio, the rest of the nation pokes fun at southern ignorance and southern speech and ridicules hillbilly amorality. And in this laughter there is unconsciously a great deal of contempt.

* * * *

When, therefore, an affair like the Greenville travesty of justice occurs, the North and West are shocked but not really surprised. It is the kind of thing one expects in the South.

To the decent white Southerner, this condescending attitude must be a source of great hurt and shame. Nobody likes to be despised. It is much better to be hated. But the South by its reaction and its violence has put itself in a position to be despised. It has proved that morally it is not mature. It has done nothing to show that it can handle its own problems. And on almost every score, it tends to justify this "lumping" by the rest of the nation, tends to prove its inferior status. Sat. 6-7-47

Admitting all this, I still feel sorry for the decent white southerner. It was pitiable to watch the decent editors of southern papers trying to find a shred of silver lining in the Greenville trial. In desperation they pointed out that at least a trial was held, and they have tried to blow this very small advance over the usual barbarity into epic proportions.

I sympathize with their efforts. A man must feel that there is some good in his group and in his region. Otherwise he couldn't go on fighting for improvement, and many of these editors are honestly fighting to better conditions, fighting against depressing and almost hopeless odds.

* * * *

As I write this, the North Carolina "seizure" of Godwin Bush, who was accused of attempted rape, has just been cleared up. One noted, however, the frantic effort on the part of state officials to prove that no lynching took place. These officials know what the North and West think of them and their region, and they were fighting to retain their self-respect. I am sure they breathed a great sigh of heartfelt relif when Bush turned himself over to the FBI.

As I have said, I feel sorry for the decent white southerner. It is not pleasant to be "lumped"; it is not pleasant to have the contempt of the rest of the world beating constantly upon your proud and sensitive head; it is not pleasant to be looked down upon as the perpetual problem child of the nation.

Just A Bit Paradoxical

Journal And Guide

WE ARE publishing in another column this week a statement by Mr. V. D. Strickland, attorney at law, Rich Square, N. C., which statement, in a note accompanying the article, was approved by the Reverend P. A. Bishop, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rich Square. 30d(1)

Mr. Strickland is of the opinion that the press which he refers to as "foreign press," has made the town of Rich Square and Northampton county appear what it is not in its news reports and editorials on the recent effort to lynch Godwin Bush. He declares that the relations between the two races in Rich Square are ideal, and that "there is no section in this country where co-operation, peace, tolerance and good-will are more practiced and lived than here between and among the two races." Norfolk, Va.

What is hard to understand, is why there should be such violent outbreaks of intolerance and interracial bitterness over an alleged criminal incident in a community where the two races understand each other perfectly and mutually respect each other. It would seem that if the relations are so good in ordinary times they should be good when something happens. If there is any need for good race relations it is when some untoward thing happens.

Mr. Strickland referred to the fact that a colored man, who was not a native of Northampton county, had recently been charged with assault upon a white woman. He is of the belief that this man is a different kind of Negro than any that live in Northampton county. He is a stranger in that section, and is therefore more of a suspect than the natives. Sat. 6-7-47

But the man, although accused of a serious crime, had never been tried on the evidence in the case. He had not had the benefit of a fair trial. He had never been convicted. He is still in jail.

It is possible that this particular man may be innocent. At any rate a community in which the relations between the races have been harmonious for many years should at least demonstrate enough tolerance to be willing to await the verdict of the court. If the man is guilty he would certainly be convicted and get the punishment that is usually meted out for the crime he committed.

When a lynching occurs anywhere in the South in these times the newspapers of the country, even those published in North Carolina, undertake to give the public all the facts surrounding the incident. That was done in Georgia when four wholly innocent people were slaughtered sometime last year, and it was done recently in Greenville, S. C. That was one way in which the number of lynchings has been reduced in recent years.

When a lynching, or an attempted lynching, occurs in a community it is an evidence that something is wrong. Something is wrong in the hearts of some of the people in that community. This paper would not for a moment condone or excuse any kind of crime, and especially crime against women of all races. But we do believe that any man accused of crime has a good old American right of being tried for the crime by due process of law. With the courts entirely in the hands of the white people there is certainly no chance of a colored man who is guilty of any kind of crime going unpunished, but will get the full measure of his deserts. Sat. 6-7-47

We regret that Northampton county and Rich Square, as well as Jackson, the county seat, have had this most unfavorable publicity. We do not doubt at all that the relations between the races in the county are good and we trust that they will remain good and grow better, but if the attempted lynching had not occurred at Jackson, and if Rich Square men had not been involved as the would-be-lynchers, we do not think that the good name which the community has previously enjoyed would have been marred in the least.

Mobs Are Forerunners Of Anarchy

30d(1) Southern

Journal & Guide Sat. 6-14-47

From Richmond Times-Dispatch

THE authorities of the several southern states where prisoners were shielded recently from actual or potential mobs should arrange for trials of the accused men as speedily as possible. These men were accused of rape or attempted rape, and they must be brought to justice, sternly and inexorably, if they are guilty. They should, of course, be acquitted, if innocent. Norfolk, Va.

Mobs which seek to take the law into their own hands are the forerunners of anarchy. Whenever a mob sets itself up as judge, jury and executioner, it undermines the foundations of the state. A letter in today's Voice of the People takes the position that in the recent Greenville, S. C., case, "the only 'justice was the returning to one person (i. e. the man who was lynched) the treatment he had given another." We had hoped that such sentiments were a thing of the past in the South.

Our correspondent assumes that Willie Earle was guilty of fatally stabbing T. W. Brown, Greenville taxi driver. On what is this assumption based? Earle had been arrested as a suspect, but he had not confessed to the authorities. One or more members of the mob which lynched him claimed that after they had seized him, he admitted his guilt, but no other evidence was produced.

A commission which made a study of all the lynchings that had occurred since 1890, under the chairmanship of George Fort Milton, then editor of the Chattanooga News, reported in 1931 that there is real doubt of the guilt of at least half of the victims of mob violence. It also reported, contrary to prevailing impressions, that fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 had even been accused of rape. Sat. 6-14-47

Fortunately here in Virginia we have been far freer from lynchings than almost any other southern state. The last undoubted lynching to occur in the Old Dominion took place in 1927, in Wise county. There was a suspicious episode in 1932, when a man was found hanging from a tree, after attacking a farmer and his wife in Fauquier county, but the coroner returned a verdict of suicide. So Virginia has surely not had a lynching in 15 years, and probably not in 20. This state and North Carolina have by far the best lynching record in the South, and are in a tie for first place. Each has had exactly 99 lynchings since 1882, according to figures compiled by Tuskegee Institute. Kentucky and Tennessee, have each had more than twice as many, while Mississippi and Georgia have piled up the highest totals of all, with 573, and 521, respectively.

It is good that Virginia has so superior a record, and that mob lawlessness is so definitely on the decline throughout the South. Mob violence is antisocial and uncivilized, no matter where it occurs. And the point needs to be made that a mob of pickets in Detroit or Philadelphia or Los Angeles which turns over automobiles and beats up men who are trying to enter their own offices or places of work is just as mob-minded as a gang of lynchers in Mississippi. They may not kill anybody, but they are guilty of taking the law into their own hands, which is the primary crime.

It ought not to be necessary to say all

over again that the police and the courts were created to enforce the law and to try those accused of wiolating it. Any mob, North or South, which ignores that basic fact is a disgrace to our nation.

South Carolina Lynchers Arrested

30 d (1)

The Star of Zion

Within a week after the lynching of a Negro in South Carolina, the lynchers, 30 in number, had been hunted down, arrested and lodged in jail. The state has many and varied sins against the Negro for which it must ultimately answer at the bar of Justice, but in the case of this wanton murder of a man, suspected of murder, but already confined to jail, officers of the law moved speedily to apprehend the guilty culprits. And, while the Federal Bureau of Investigation was immediately on the scene, law enforcement officers of the state moved with such alertness and determination that the need for federal intervention became wholly unnecessary. Thurs. 2-20-47

It should be obvious that the early apprehension and arrests of the lynchers could not have been accomplished without cooperation by interested citizens, who felt aggrieved by the blot of lynch-murder upon their community and desired nothing more than that the law take its course with the debasers of law and order. [illegible]

The story is quite in contrast with the case at Monroe, Georgia, last year, for in that case, despite the efforts of county, state and federal authorities, citizens, who doubtless could have helped to solve the case and bring to justice the lynchers, were either afraid to cooperate with the officers of the law, or were too indifferent to the awful blot upon their community to do anything about its removal. Thus the state of Georgia still stands disgraced in the eyes of the nation and the world. Charlotte, N.C.

In the case of South Carolina, be it remembered, that only half of the work has been done. The confessed lynchers must be brought as swiftly to pay for their dastardly crime, as they were so quickly apprehended. Nor must they be let off with light and inadequate punishment, which able lawyers will endeavor to wring from a possibly sympathetic jury. No amount of provocation can have porved any justification of the crime whatsoever, for the prisoner had been arrested, lodged in jail and most assuredly would have been adequately punished, if proved guilty.

Lynching in South Carolina and elsewhere will end when lynchers know they will have to pay the full penalty of the law. The sheriff who surrendered the prisoner without any effort to defend him was culpable and, in fact, an accomplice to the lynching. For even if he had failed in his efforts, it was his sworn duty to make every possible effort to defend the prisoner, even at the risk of his own life. Thur. 2-20-47

South Leads In Lynching But Trails In Education

Journal + Guide Norfolk, Va. Sat. 6-14-47

30 d (1) Southern

SPECIAL TO JOURNAL AND GUIDE

ATLANTA, Ga.—Statistics on lynchings and poor schools in the South seem to indicate a casual relationship between the two, observers are pointing out since the recent wave of mob attacks in southern communities. While the South ranks highest in mob murders, it occupies the bottom of the column in education.

Although lynching has diminished since 1922, the brutal and ruthless reign of mobs still persists and it seems exceedingly difficult ever to bring the guilty mobsters to justice. That fact was evidenced in the acquital of the 28 white mob members in Greenville, S. C., though 26 of the men acknowledged participating in the lynching.

Perhaps education would help reduce lynching in the South. At least this is the opinion of many educators who have carefully analyzed the relation between lynching and poor schools in the South.

In this connection, the Southern Regional Council quotes statistics showing that the 12 States leading in lynching since 1882 are the same 12 which rank lowest in education.

Here is the record:

Lynchings, 1882-1946—Mississippi, 574; Georgia, 525; Texas, 498; Louisiana, 391; Alabama, 346; Arkansas, 285; Florida, 281; Tennessee, 250; Kentucky, 205; South Carolina, 159; North Carolina, 99; Virginia 99.

Education index (1946)—Mississippi, 68; Alabama, 73; Arkansas, 73; Kentucky, 74; South Carolina 75; Georgia, 77; Tennessee, 83; Louisiana, 85; Virginia, 86; North Carolina, 86; Florida, 87; Texas, 91. (National average, 100.)

Proposals for Federal anti-lynching laws have been bitterly opposed by Southern Congressmen and Senators, often with resort to filibuster. However, many sincere law-enforcement officers doubt that Federal statutes would greatly increase convictions.

These officials observe that even if Federal agents brought charges, and a Federal grand jury indicted, defendants still would be tried in their U. S. District Court, before juries chosen from their own people. Sat. 6-14-47

They agree, however, that Federal statutes would greatly increase the risk of complaisant sheriffs and their deputies, who surrender prisoners without bona fide efforts to protect them.

Mob Government Controls Dixie

Black Dispatch Oklahoma City, Okla.

The South's moral fitness to administer justice was weighed in the balances and found wanting at Greenville, South Carolina, last Wednesday, when an all-white Dixie jury of twelve men, after listening to the open and confessed guilt of their fellow townsmen, charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder, voted unconditional freedom and acquittal.

30d(1) Southern

Here we find local self government stymied by a jury system that cannot rise above the sanctions of a community that outlaws and repudiates the federal and state constitutions guaranteeing personal safety. Willie Earle is dead, as is also the integrity and honor of a political sub-division of this nation that sanctions the mob which is the antithesis of orderly society. Sat. 5-31-47

Society is made possible only by law, and the supremacy of the law is the foundation upon which government rests. When hypocrisy enters the portals of justice, even as it did in Greenville, in sanctioning the heinous murder of a defenseless black man, we have laid the predicate upon which we may later snatch the guarantees of life, liberty and property from the grasp of all citizens.

It is difficult for the South to punish the mob for the reason the mob has the sanction of the entire community where it operates. Organized violence could not last five seconds in a region where there was determined opposition to its existence. We can find acquiescence to the mob in failure of anyone in a given section to recognize or identify the guilty parties. You have always noted that southern coroners usually render an opinion, after the slaying of a defenseless Negro, that the defendant met his death at the hands of unidentified persons. Failure to identify the mob is the equivalent to sanction of the mob by community life. It means that everyone in the neighborhood is diseased with the morbid thought that the solemn sanctions of government should have been ruthlessly set aside.

The Negro has a ritualistic citizenship in this country, and the only way the South has been able to prevent the upsweep of the black man to the effective level of his constitutional citizenship has been through the terror of the mob. Negroes do not vote in Greenville, South Carolina, and the reason they do not vote is because of fear of the mob. The lyncher is the threat with which eight million blacks are forced into second-class citizenship, and that is why, when push comes to shove, as it did in Greenville, the South openly endorses the criminal, murderous conduct of the invisible government.

When one views the South from this angle and approach it is very easy to explain the action of the Greenville community. Other sections might go about the task of releasing the mob from responsibility for its acts in a more subtle way, but in the end the fact that no where in the South can the mob be punished, evidences the wisdom and understanding of John Bolt Culbertson, attorney for the defendants at Greenville, when he shouted to the jury last Wednesday, "Not a soul in South Carolina would criticize you if you turned these boys loose. You are not expected to convict them."

Every white school child knows this to be the philosophy of the South in its attitude towards the Negro. He grows up with this information nestling in his breast. It is the only method by which jim crow segregation can be substantially enforced. Fear of the mob, fear of the gangsters who stand about as hidden representatives of unconstitutional government, is the only successful method yet devised to force the black man into acceptance of second-class citizenship.

The conductor who ruthlessly deprives a Negro of his interstate rights, or the bus driver who illegally deprives an intrastate black man of a property right for which he paid for, knows that at every station he has the backing of a mob to enforce his unlawful ultimatums, and the humblest Negro knows this along with the whites. We force the Negro to suffer all of the humiliations, despair and ruin we heap upon him through fear of the mob. Is it unreasonable to suppose that when through a series of circumstances such as in Greenville, the mob suddenly becomes exposed, we find the community supporting the mob?

Here is Oklahoma City several years ago, authorities apprehended a mob that slew a black man. While a conviction was obtained in this case, it should be recalled that within from three to five years every one of the confessed and convicted mobbists had been pardoned. Can you not see that the governor who issued the pardons for these murderers had the general sanction of the residents of his state? An elected official is a political creature, and in committing an act of this kind you may readily understand that the governor acted only after having canvassed the mind of the community. Sat. 5-31-47

There is just one bit of decency that stems from this putrid rottenness, falsely called a legal hearing. The judge in the Greenville court sought to override the traditional viciousness of his section. He also is a political creature and doubtless went farther than he should have gone, thinking in terms of political safety. We are assured there will be another judge elected at the next election, evidencing again the fact that community life supports the mob, and will not tolerate anyone seeking to bring reprisals against the mob.

As we examine this horrible legal orgy we might say we see moral light dawning. Irrespective of the final act of the jury, which we suspect was itself residing in fear of the mob, justice and human decency raised its head higher than ever before in that South Carolina court room, above the foul cigarette butts which lined the court room floor, the whiskey-seared bellies and the hitherto hopeless degeneracy

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America's Marble-Hearted Conscience

30d(1) Southern Black Dispatch

Never before was there so clearly exposed collusion of the community with the mob, than in the recent Greenville, South Carolina farce, when an all-white jury of twelve men acquitted 28 self-confessed slayers of Willie Earle, and it appears that we are about to witness the same hypocritical gesture from this cancerous growth in organized society, in the apprehension and arrest of seven white men, now in jail at Raleigh, N. C., charged with the kidnaping and attempt lynching of Goodwin Bush. Oklahoma City, Okla.

Hitherto it has been felt that a handful of irresponsible white men, degenerate and lawless, savagely rended and butchered black men and women down in Dixie, and that the mass of Southerners are opposed to such brutality, but the action of a southern jury in releasing these exposed and confessed murderers, from the statutory penalties of the law, adequately and fully exposes the conspiracy deep-seated in southern community life to keep in existence the only effective institution known to that section, by which the Negro can be forced into second-class citizenship. Sat. 6-7-47

Governor Gregg, of North Carolina, may on the face of things appear to be a righteous judge when he calls for the vigorous prosecution of these would-be lynchers who have set up an extra-terroristic authority in North Carolina, probably emboldened by the recent jury action at Greenville; but Governor Gregg doubtless knows that in the last analysis after going through the motions of a trial, a North Carolina jury of white men will free these vile criminals, for the reason that the mind of the community is guttered in sympathy with the mob.

Walter Anderson, director of the state bureau of investigation, has already predicted that the arrest of these men will eventually prove futile because Walter Anderson believes, just as John Bolton Culbertson, attorney for the accused mobbists at Greenville, who shouted at the Greenville jury, "Not a soul in South Carolina would criticize you if you turn these boys loose."

To eradicate mobs and lynchers white people must first of all respect the sacredness and inviolability of every human being's rights. We propose and defend this idea of social justice in the preamble to the constitution when we say that "all men are created equal," and then we further this thesis by reference to "inalienable rights" such as "life, liberty and the pursuits of happiness."

And then in the constitution proper we refer to "domestic tranquility," the "general welfare" and the "blessings of liberty," all of which is positive proof that American society was established upon the idea that personal safety and the inviolability of individual rights is guaranteed by the American charter of freedom for every human being.

But can a black citizen in Oklahoma or South Carolina experience the calm, peace and placidity of other freeholders in community, when he knows that unleashed violence stalks the highways and may even invade, without punishment, his home and jails to visit terrorism and brute force upon him? Can there be any tranquility for a black mother in America when she knows her offspring may momentarily meet the ferocity of savage beasts, who fume, rage and slaughter? Where is liberty, justice and happiness gone in such a vile, repulsive atmospheric stench?

It is with this yardstick we must measure American democracy and human decency. Every American white man and woman must realize that our courts constantly weigh the virtue, integrity and morality of community life. If the jury system is so corrupt, tainted and debased that it forgets the fundamental guarantees of our organized society and winks at the abrogation and annulment of life, liberty and tranquility, without due process of law, such society stands on the brink of ruin. Who was it who said, "No chain is stronger than its weakest link"? The Negro in America forms the weak link in the administration of justice in this country and those who do not fully realize this have never contemplated seriously the story of Haaman, who was hanged on his own gallows. Sat. 6-7-47

What inalienable right could a human being have more precious than life? The 15th amendment to the Constitution says "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state in which they reside." There is no other qualification or reservation. To be born or naturalized in this country gives one citizenship that is absolute, and this citizenship guarantees "life, liberty and property."

But the mob, with the consent of the community, hides behind the dead carcass of the constitution to deprive Negroes of society's pledge and assurance that they will have an "equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them." The great body of the American people, including those who embrace the religious establishment, cannot dodge this accountability when white juries come into open court and acquit men who have unlawfully taken human life, and who openly acknowledge guilt. "Upright men will be astonished" and humiliated at such a verdict and to note such unbelievable reprehensibility.

There is just one virtue stemming from the Greenville verdict, and the one we confidently expect to be rendered shortly in North Carolina. Such false treachery to the ideals of the constitution is sure to build a bonfire in the conscience of America. From now on upright men and women are going to weigh mob verdicts in balance with the constitution and they are going to say that our fundamental charter is a cheap farce and a lie. Greenville verdicts will have the same effect upon the American sense of right as did Uncle Tom's Cabin weigh against the institution of slavery. It took a long time, but Uncle Tom's Cabin caused the guns to belch at Fort Sumpter. It exposed the guilt and shame in our daily lives, and America decided to do something about it. 30 l (1)

Every white man and woman who believes in restrictive covenants, who believes in jim crow and segregation in its various forms; that denies freedom of movement and liberty in choice, and who believes that unholy restrictions should be visited upon the citizenship of the Negro, is at heart a believer in the mob, for he knows this infamous, indecent and unbrotherly regulation cannot be maintained and enforced as intended, except through terrorism of the mob. Proof of this latent connivance and guilt is divulged when his marble-hearted conscience permits him to declare in open court that the self-confessed mob is blameless.

More Shocking Than The Lynchers

World Memphis Tenn

The action of an all-white jury in returning verdicts of acquittal for the 28 accused lynchers of Willie Earle in S. C. last week once again points to the urgent necessity for speedy enactment of an anti-lynching bill by the U. S. Congress. For while statistics point to fewer lynchings, the facts show that the lynchers themselves are far more daring and bold nowadays than at any time in the nation's history.

30 l (1) Southern

As terrible and brutal as was the lynching, in itself, it was not as shocking as the action of supposedly law-abiding citizens who failed to see in the great mass of incriminating evidence, grounds upon which the accused should be punished. Therein lies the key to the answer to the question whether or not the South, as her representatives in Congress insist, can solve the problem of mob violence. For more than any lawyer or judge, the jurors represent the voice and sentiments of the people of the community in which they reside and serve. Tues. 5-27-47

It is such farcical action as that, not communism, which the nation needs to fear most. For in such action, the young white youth of the nation are disillusioned as to the force and effectiveness of the laws; Negroes come to take the view that for them to get a semblance of justice is through such means as they can personally bring to bear upon injustice and against whites who malign them in their daily lives.

And in the face of such action, the course for American Negroes, at least for southern Negroes, is to begin anew the struggle to participate in the elections; to seek the appointment of Negro police officers in southern communities and to seek a larger participation in the tax-supported institutions, of whatever nature, maintained in these communities.

Some observers in their comments on what took place in South Carolina and more recently on the lynching in North Carolina Friday, take the position that what is needed to curb the lynching threat is more education. We would not underestimate the importance of education in the equation. But it would be the gravest folly if we should place all of our hopes on the slow process of education to end mob violence and other injustices which afflict us in the South. For in a study published by the Southern Regional Council, they find that only 1 in 10 southerner in 1940 had finished high school; that the census shows for that year that 6 out of every 10 southerner had never been to school; that 18 out of every 100 southerner had dropped out of school before they had finished the fifth grade, and that no matter how you figure it, the fact is that past generations of southerners have not been as well educated as people in other parts of the nation, and that our young people of today, though their opportunities are considerably better than what their parents had, are not provided with or are unable to take advantage of as good an education as young people in the rest of the United States.

Lynching Can Be Prevented

30 l (1) Southern

Journal + Guide

From Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch Sat. 6-7-47

IN THE Greenville, S. C., lynching of last February, for which 28 defendants were found not guilty by a jury, the mob got hold of its victim by approaching a jail at night, confronting the jailer with guns, and taking out its victim without resistance from the jailer.

In the Jackson, N. C., attempted lynching, the mob used the same method. It approached the jail during the night, pointed a pistol (or pistols) at the jailer who opened the door, and took out the prisoner—again without resistance from the jailer.

The two instances have something else in common. On both occasions resentment [illegible] because of other criminal actions. In South Carolina there had been some attacks on taxicab drivers, and an additional attack touched off the mob spirit. In North Carolina there had been an attack on a woman, and one more charge of such an attack touched off the mob spirit. There was no secret in either instance about the existence of resentment prior to the mob action. In North Carolina the district solicitor knew it so well that he attempted to have the prisoner removed from the Jackson jail only to find out that he was too late by a few minutes.

The two cases suggest how the mob action could have been prevented. If officers or officials had been more alert to local resentment or had acted quicker, they could have prevented the jail breaks. If jailers had been better prepared for contingencies, they might have prevented the mobs from reaching prisoners whom they were duty bound to protect. Norfolk, Va.

Tuskegee Institute reports, to which we have referred earlier, contain yearly the number of instances in which investigators believe lynchings were prevented. Over the last 15 years these reports list nearly 500 such instances involving even more persons. Whether in all instances lynchings would have resulted is difficult to judge, but the circumstances indicated that the mobs intended to kill. In most of these prevented lynchings the effective action was the removal of prisoners or the increase of the guards to such an extent that mob vengeance was defeated.

The records show much more. In some instances armed force has been used successfully to prevent lynchings. In other instances determined sheriffs or other officers have succeeded in persuading the mob to desist. In one conspicuous instance women put a mob to shame. But the primary responsibility rests upon the officers of the law. They have the direct obligation of protecting prisoners in their custody. When they are alert to the danger, as they ought to be, when they act quickly and intelligently, and when they are determined, they can prevent, in nearly all instances, a mob from working its will. When they fail in any of these respects, they open the way to murder. 30 l (1) So.

As the records which we have published show, the advance in these respects has been striking. Fifty years ago the number of lynchings each year was frequently above 100. In the past decade the average number per year has been less than five. Intelligent action by officers has played a great part in bringing the lynching crime under control. Sat. 6-7-47

Intelligent action by officers means nearly always community awareness of the seriousness of the lynching threat and public opinion which condemns the crime and upholds officers who prevent it. In the end the problem lies in this community spirit—as reflected in public opinion, as supported by vigorous leadership, and as indicative of the public resolution to make the law, not mob savagery, prevail. The rise of this spirit throughout many parts of the South has stiffened the attitude of officers, and the two forces together have brought the curve of lynching down. The curve will continue downward so long as this spirit continues to be a major force in southern life.

Now Up To Congress

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

The lynching of Willie Earle, 23-year-old Negro in South Carolina early Monday morning, is but another link in the endless chain of abuses of States' rights in the matter of the treatment of Negroes in southern communities and still another argument for the speedy passage of a federal anti-lynching bill to curb an evil, which today many fairminded and serious thinking white leaders are convinced cannot be coped with by the states.

30d(1) South

The fact that the Negro was suspected of the revolting crime of having robbed and slain a white taxi driver is of no significance in seeking to justify the action of the 35 armed mobsters. The courts of law are established and maintained to determine the innocence or guilt of persons suspected of law violations. There never has been and we hope never will be any place for mob action to substitute for legal, orderly and judicious action in our democracy.

Wed. 2-19-47

There has been a revival of the perennial promises in the present session of Congress of the passage of some sort of anti-mob legislation in this Congress. Negroes have got to insist no matter what their political loyalties may be in any particular, that they will support no party that will not make mob-action a number one obligation to the Negro for his loyalty and his support.

We can very well appreciate the necessity for stiff punishment for any person, whether Negro or white, who would commit so dastard a crime. Nevertheless, until a person has had the right to a trial by jury, the ends of law have been thwarted and aborted. Accordingly, the time is here for prompt and decisive action for a federal anti-lynching bill. For it is now crystal clear that the South cannot or will not live up to the moral challenge inherent in the administration of justice to all citizens, without regards to race and color. The Negro, no less than other Americans, has richly earned the right to citizenship protection.

The Pickens County Lynching

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

(From The Lighthouse And Informer)

Thurs. 2-20-47

Monday morning, South Carolina and the rest of the country, set to begin "Brotherhood Week", awoke to find the brutal lynching of a Pickens County Negro at the hands of an estimated 35 white men.

30d(1) Southern

Saturday night, near Liberty in Pickens County, a white taxi driver of Greenville was beaten and robbed by a colored fare and authorities arrested 35-year-old Willie Earle of Liberty as a suspect and placed him in the county jail at Pickens, pending further investigation.

Around 5 A. M. Monday, an armed mob arrived at the little red jail house at Pickens and at gun point forced Jailer Ed Gilstrap to surrender the prisoner, locked in a second floor cell. About seven o'clock the stabbed and shot body of Earle was found just over the Pickens line in Greenville County. Jailer Gilstrap said some of the mob which arrived in seven cars, remained behind to patrol the jail while the major portion of it executed the lynching.

Officially, it was the first lynching in South Carolina since 1941, according to Tuskegee Institute, when a group of white men slew Truesdale at Andrews. But there have been several other similar deaths labeled lynchings since that time. For example, the Aug. 12, 1946, slaying of James Walker at Elko was adjudged a lynching by many groups. The last undisputed lynching in South Carolina occurred in 1927, in Aiken County, when a mob put to death two brothers and a pregnant sister who had been freed on a charge involving a white man.

Governor J. Strom Thurmond has ordered the state constabulary into Pickens County and, to remain on the scene and spare no effort in apprehending the mobbists. However the effort, it is doubtful that the lynchers will be rounded up. In the past, lynchers have had full protection from their neighbors. This was true in the Monroe, Ga., lynchings of last year; it is generally true.

Whether Willie Earle was guilty of the offense, is not known. It will never be known. Taking the law in their own hands is deplorable, as much as the lynching itself. And in Pickens County, where there are 32,000 whites and 5,000 Negroes, there should be disgrace and dishonor. It is not American to lynch citizens, a fact announced many times. And, there is no excuse for it.

2-20-47

South Carolina, the state of "white supremacy," has the dubious honor of pacing American lynching mobs for 1947.

30d(2) 1947 Southern 7541

Screven County's Fine Example

Constitution

"A jury of their neighbors looked at these men and found themselves mirrored among them, heard the story of what they had done and decided there was nothing wrong in it." 30d(2)

That reaction, from The Washington Post, is fairly typical of the view which outsiders hold of a South in which incidents such as the Greenville lynch-trial travesty can occur. Atlanta Ga.

Perhaps it is an accurate estimate of us.

Perhaps the Greenville fiasco, last Summer's Walton County affair and now the Jackson, N. C., lynching are indeed, as the Charlotte News says, the result of "an ingrained prejudice" which sits on us all in greater or less degree.

We prefer, however, to think that there is another South, an oft-subordinated one, to be sure, in which persons are willing to see the law take its proper course, regardless of the race of those involved.

And every so often there comes a case to substantiate that view.

Last week in Screven County, for instance, a Negro was apprehended for as vicious and brutal an attack on two white women as could possibly be imagined.

Many citizens feared violence following his arrest.

There was none.

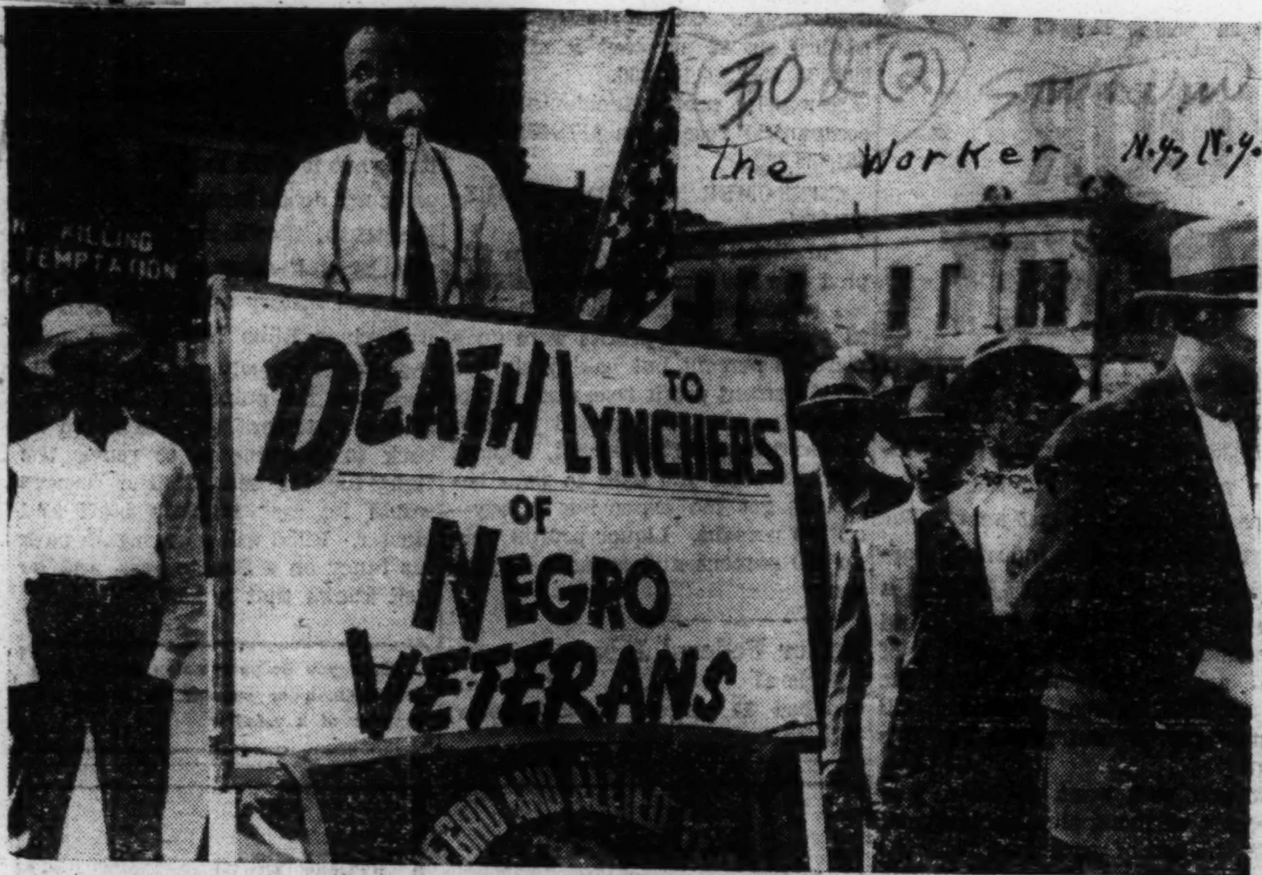
State Patrol officials ordered extra guards to attend his trial, fearing an attempt to avenge the crime.

Again there was none.

The court was orderly. The trial was brief but fair. There was no evidence of mob spirit. June 5 - 47

The Constitution shares the South's humiliation over the spirit typified in the Greenville and Walton County outrages.

And we regret that, because of the notoriety attendant to them, outsiders too frequently lose sight of the fact that, as was shown this week in Screven County, some progress is undeniably being made.



30d(2) Southern

The Worker N.Y., N.Y.

ANGREY VETS, members of the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America in New York City's Harlem community protest the whitewash of the 28 self-confessed lynchers in Greenville, S.C.

The Worker

Papers Hit Lynch Whitewash

N.Y., N.Y.

Quotes from the Southern Press on the Verdict in the Greenville Lynching Trial:

Morgan Blake in Atlanta Journal May 23): Sun. 6-1-47

"...The vast majority of Southern people are law-abiding and decent. They abhor lynching. Yet this large element is helpless, it seems, to prevent a minority from disgracing our section and holding it up to the contempt of civilization.

"The result of the Greenville trial is certain to bring about Federal anti-lynching law. The Federal government will not and should not tolerate any longer a situation where groups of citizens take the law into their own hands ...No nation can permit its laws to be trampled under foot so brazenly. If so, its claims to being a democracy would be farcical..."

Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser May 23:

"When we in the South fail too flagrantly to give justice, we are asking for interference and we will get it.. Sun. 6-1-47

"These 12 weak men in Greenville have brought shame upon South Carolina, the South and the nation...When they placed their stamp of approval on lynch law, the news flashed to New York where delegates from all over the world sit in the United Nations organization trying to develop a world order based on law and decent regard for the rights of all men.... All in all, that Greenville jury did a fine day's work for the men who would cut the foundations out from under America..."

Birmingham News, May 23:

"Once again, with no punishment of mob action in prospect, fuel is added to the flame of demand that a Federal anti-lynching law be passed...The South, its public sentiment, its judicial processes, are still on trial."

★

Commercial Appeal — Memphis, May 23:

"The Greenville lynch trial verdict of acquittal is a sad day for justice and the South...

"It (the verdict) is a rebuke, too, to the decency of the vast majority in the South who believe in the maintenance of law and order.... This right-thinking majority are outraged by the Greenville verdict...The salvation of a gang that took the law into their own hands is a humiliating shame to a great section."

'Lynching' and Hypocrisy

30d(2) Southern

The article about lynching printed in The News and Courier this day, sent by the Associated Press, contains interesting and instructive information. Inferentially the impression that it conveys is that lynching is a monopoly of the Southern states.

In Kansas City, Duluth, in a city of Nebraska have been lynchings in the last 30 years, and in Missouri was a lynching in the last five or six years.

In race riots the destruction of negro life has been far greater in Northern cities, Chicago, Detroit, New York, than in any Southern state. In South Carolina has been no race riot in which South Carolinians participated since 1898.

About 40 years ago the scene of one of the foulest lynchings that has disgraced the United States was Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

In a period of 10 years ("Reconstruction") turbulence and crime by negroes was promoted in the South by the government of the United States. It had its unfortunate sequel, which The News and Courier does not excuse, in the years following the restoration of ascendancy of the white race. (The white race should have included only nice gentlemen.). The News + Courier

As for gang lynchings as distinguished from those that are uprisings of communities, they are far more common in Northern cities than in any Southern state. When, for example, in Chicago 15 or 30 gangsters have an Al Capone for their instigator and protector and set upon and kill another gangster who, they believe, is disloyal to their craft, are they less to be defined as lynchers than a gang of taxi drivers who kill a man in retaliation for the slaying of one of their fellow workers? Sun. 6-8-47

Are gangs composed of professional killers in a great city spared the opprobious name "lynchers" because they are professional criminals? Charleston, S.C.

Popular lynching parties in which thousands or hundreds of persons have a part have not in many years been occurrences in Southern states. The News and Courier hopes that never again shall they occur.

It further hopes that the denunciations of the two gang lynchings of the last year, in Georgia and in South Carolina, that have been uttered throughout the country are evidence that in the great cities of the North the stern and pious resolution has been made by the law-abiding citizens to suppress, at any cost, the gang lynching "in their midst", so frequently reported in their newspapers. Considerable suppression of hypocrisy would be a by-product.

SOME DO CONSTRUCTIVE WORK:

Sat. 6-14-46

Most Southern Dailies Incite Mob Violence

30d(2) Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Following the release of 28 self-confessed lynchers in Greenville, S.C., many Southern white newspapers have spearheaded violence against colored people by playing up stories of alleged assaults on white women. They have promoted a reign of terror from North Carolina to the farthest boundaries of Florida.

However, some, believing in constructive journalism, refuse to play up such stories to incite mob violence. Four of them are the Richmond News Leader, the Louisville Courier-Journal, the Atlanta Constitution and the Raleigh News and Observer.

All of Columbia, S.C., was excited last week over the alleged slashing of a white housewife. Over 1,000 joined in the search for the suspect while unarmed colored persons looked on. Belief was expressed later that the woman's story was false.

Under the guise of enforcing law and order, white citizens may legally enjoy the manhunt, a Southern sport comparable only to the old English foxhunt, but they will not track down a white attack suspect or let a colored person do so. Sat. 6-14-46

Mob Rarely Denounced

Rather than give needless space to the attack story, The State should have played up the mob element, and editorially denounced all law enforcement agencies for permitting a citizen posse to assist in capturing the suspect.

Not Giving Community Service

Playing up attack stories is a big business proposition to most Southerners. The editors know the intensity of local hatred. They know the depth of "white supremacy" sentiment.

The attack story boosts circulation, projects the publication as a popular local advertising medium, but reduces the effectiveness of the newspaper to constructively serve the community.

Beside The State, already mentioned as notorious for playing up stories that incite and promote anti-racial sentiment, others include the Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, and the Commercial Appeal, Memphis. Sat. 6-14-46

Evidence against these newspapers may be found in their news columns dealing with crimes committed by colored persons, with the choicest morsels involving the white female.

Weed Out Criminals

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Editor Constitution: It is my humble opinion that the only solution to one of the greatest problems with which we have to deal in our relations with the Negro race lies with the Negro schools and churches. If the teachers in their schools and the ministers in their churches will begin to teach them that so long as members of their race attack women we will have lynchings. No Federal law will stop it. The State laws cannot stop it. It is almost peculiarly a Southern problem.

30d(2)

South

When you consider that only 80 years ago this race was just emerging from the bonds of slavery we must admit that they deserve much praise. Thousands in their ranks have reached places of eminence and fully deserve the respect of their white friends. It is the criminal element among them which must be suppressed. Southern white men know how to deal with this element. It is usually swift and sure, however much against our laws. It is also unlawful for any man to outrage a woman, be he white or black. The courts will never convict a mob which takes the law in its hands for this crime. Sun. 6-15-47

This has been true for more than 60 years. It will always be true until they are educated properly and the criminal element among them is weeded out.

Sun. 6-15-47

JULIAN M. FRIX.

LaGrange.

Literate Ignorance and Lynching

News & Courier

The literate ignoramuses outside of the South ridding themselves of words about the verdict in the Greenville case are not penetrable by anything The News and Courier can say.

30d(2) South

Gang murder and mob murder (they are not the same thing) in the South shocks the foreigners because in the South are two races of people and of the relations between them these foreigners know little and learn little. Charleston, S.C.

Before 1865 the "crime against woman" by negroes was not committed. Soon after that year it began. In South Carolina negroes were, until 30 years ago, a great majority in the population. (They are a minority now.). "Reconstruction" intensified race animosity, call it "prejudice" if the word be preferred, and it caused fear too. In the lynchings between the fall of the Confederacy and the century's end, men of respectability and prominence occasionally had part. Once a white man, property-owner, was hanged to a tree's limb because he had outraged and murdered a white girl, and of 3,000 persons present numbers were of the "upper class." Two other white men were lynched, one of them about 1903.

Thurs. 5-29-47

Separation of the races steadily increased. In this century the lynchings of negroes have been by mobs of men comparatively ignorant and of the humbler station.

Always the leaders of the old time, those who governed between 1876 and 1890, constantly denounced lynchers and crime against negroes. After that were one or two governors who excused it for the "one crime."

Slowly lynchings declined in number. There was a short revival of them after World War I. Then, since roads were paved and telephone communication became more common, lynching almost ended. Until the Greenville crime there was in South Carolina none after 1930.

In these days, in South Carolina, most violent crime is intra-racial. The clashes between white ruffians and negroes of the 1890s are rare now. Newspapers daily record killings of negroes by negroes. That is the graver "negro problem."

Two negroes lately have been convicted of attacks upon white women and are to be executed. Forty years ago they would have been lynched. Legal infliction of the death penalty for the crime is not now uncommon in South Carolina.

Men innocent of crime have been lynched. Those cases have been exceptional.

In the South is instinctive horror of race admixture. Right or wrong, it is with us Southern white people. It will stay. It is encouraged. The News and Courier encourages the horror, demanding at the same time equal and exact justice, with separation, for the two races.

Not even the demagogues now defend lynching for the "one crime". Their former defence of it of course caused lynching for other alleged crimes.

Since the Greenville verdict two negroes have been arrested for attacking women. That crime is and has been lately increasing.

Thurs. 5-29-47

Lynchings and other capital crimes will be minimized when the people shall insist upon certain and swift punishment of criminals. Transfer of trials to federal courts would multiply lynchings. It would embolden bad negroes and enrage white ruffians.

South Carolina should have courts always ready to try capital cases immediately, in a week or two, and a high court that would determine appeals in a month or less. That would stop lynching.

Meantime, Northern agitators have diverted attention from a crime in Greenville done by a negro to a crime done by white men. The result is that they are inflaming the minds of the negro population and paralyzing the unceasing effort of respectable Southerners to protect negroes from white Southern criminals.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
February 19, 1947

Carolina Lynching

30d(2)

The lynching of the Negro who was taken from the Pickens County, S. C., jail by a mob of white men followed the same sordid and revolting pattern that lynchings usually do. Bearing guns, under cover of darkness, the mob took the law into its own hands, seized the victim from the elderly jailer, did the Negro to death with gun shots and knives and left his body in an out-of-the-way place for someone to discover. Southern

Although there can never be any mitigating circumstances to lessen the crime of lynching, this one was made doubly revolting and degrading by the fact that legal charges had not been filed against the victim, who was held as a suspect in the robbery-murder of a Greenville taxi driver.

The murder of the taxi driver was a dastardly criminal act, but we have the courts and the orderly processes of the law to deal with murderers.

Prior to this lynching, South Carolina had established a noteworthy record in having passed through thirteen years without a lynching being officially charged against its name.,

Through the patient process of education, and the building up of a solid public opinion in opposition to the vicious crime of lynching, such crimes have been progressively reduced in the South over the past several years. We had gotten to the point where there was good reason to hope that the lynch law had been entirely relegated to the limbo of other relics of the age of barbarism. But these hopes are always blasted whenever a mob takes the law into its own hands as was done in the Pickens County case.

In all consciousness, we must heartily condemn and deplore such inhumane and lawless acts. As Americans we can never go before the bar of public opinion with clean hands until the foul crime of lynching has been completely outlawed and repudiated as a form of meting out justice. It is debasing and barbaric.

Proposing an Imitation

The News and Courier
Charleston, S.C.
30d(2)

Had the "lynching", and lynching it was, that was done in Greenville county the other day been done in Chicago or New York it would have been described by their newspapers and office-holders as a "gang murder". The killing of the negro was not by the communities of Greenville and Pickens counties. Not 1,000 or 500 men were participants in it. Thirty-one persons, 27 of them taxi drivers (a taxi driver had been brutally murdered), have been arrested, and these avengers, however inexcusable, if they be proved guilty, are not the scoundrels who in the great cities "lynch" for loot. They are not beasts, as was the beast that killed the taxi driver. It might be as well for the Southern press to imitate the Uplifters in the Big Burgs and employ the word "gang", not "mob" and "lynchers", when referring to a murder that is not done by a county, township or community. Sun. 8-10-47

People Responsible

Bearing in mind that juries in the state courts of South Carolina are white men (occasionally a negro serves), that the judges and prosecuting officers are white men, the murder of a negro in retaliation for a crime however brutal and bestial is without excuse. If it be said that the people are impatient of the law's delays and therefore take the law into their own hands, they, the people, are responsible for the delays.

Southern Papers Rap Lynch Jury

Some Find It Important That Trial Was Held

30d(2)

By The Associated Press

A number of southern newspapers condemned editorially yesterday the verdict which acquitted 28 Greenville, S. C., men accused of mass murder in the alleged lynching of a Negro.

"The whole south, the whole nation, must hang its head in shame over the verdict," commented the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal termed the verdict "a rebuke to the decency of that vast majority in the south who believe in the maintenance of law and order" and called it "a sad day for justice and the south."

"As much as most southerners disapprove of federal intervention," said the Birmingham Age-Herald, "the verdict will increase the feeling, even in the south, that some other method than those now available must be found when Negroes are murdered by white mobs, if we are to assure the punishment of the guilty."

Numerous southern newspapers found it important that alleged lynchers were, for the first time in the south, arrested and brought to trial, with the Nashville Tennessean predicting that "fewer would-be mobsters, we believe, will be inclined henceforth to take the risks."

The Lynching Spirit Lives

News and Courier

So the report is that Pickens county will be sued for $250,000, the allegation being that its officers failed to protect the negro Willie Earle.

30d(2) Southern (S.C.)

If legal actions shall be instituted against all the persons and publications that have uttered or printed slanderous statements against the members of the jury that acquitted men indicted for the murder of the negro the damages asked will be at least $250,000,000. Charleston, S.C.

What conceivable justification has any man who was not a juryman and did not hear the sworn evidence and legal rulings in a trial to speak and print attacks on a juryman's integrity?

One may say, without violation of the proprieties, that upon evidence printed, which to him was hearsay evidence, he would have found a different verdict.

To denounce a sworn jury is equivalent to saying that the jury system is a failure and that mob law were better.

The fact, the plain fact, is that hundreds of persons are by implication instigating the application of mob law to the jurymen in the Willie Earle trial. Before us, as we write, is an editorial in The Times, of Hartford, Connecticut, that is calculated to stir a horde to march on South Carolina and lynch not only the jury but the whole population of Greenville county.

Nor would it be the first time that persons who applauded a man who touched a match to the constitution of the United States and denounced it as "a covenant with death and agreement with hell" marched against the South.

While assaults on the South of the kind to which we are here referring are not representative of the Northern people as a whole or of more than a minority of them, that minority entertains the same animosity toward the Southern white people that had expression by Garrison and his lawless cult. "John Brown's body lies amouldering in the ground but his soul is marching on." He was a lyncher.

'Lynching'—and Other Crime

News and Courier

While the American newspapers, in many states and cities, are denouncing the failure of the jury in Greenville to convict the indicted murderers of a negro, and The News and Courier is not censuring them or upholding the jury's verdict, we remind that murder by gangs or by individuals is not the most serious and common crime in the United States.

30d(2) Southern

That crime is theft. Stealing, with the lying that assists and is essential to it, more than any other species of crime is common among the Americans. Charleston, S.C.

The authorities report that billions, not millions, of dollars are stolen from the American people by thieves and perjurors who evade income tax payments. One reads that frauds are committed or attempted by 200,000 veterans.

Lynching is damnable, murder is damnable too, but the murderers, whether or not they be lynchers, are few by comparison with the number of thieves among the Americans.

Thievery, its germs from greed and avarice is the ailment that afflicts, contaminates, infects Americans with filthy disease at this time.

The violation of contracts, the trampling by a man on his word of honor, that is the national sickness.

Are millions of the Americans unmoral? Or immoral? Is what was once thought of as a man's "honor" to be treated now with sheer and scorn? Sun. S. 25-47

A juryman is sworn to find a verdict "according to the law and the evidence", and if he turns his back on his oath he swears, he cripples conscience and character.

Millions upon millions of men sworn as solemnly as are jurymen forget the oath in the presence of a dollar. Between them and those who confront a fellow man with pistols in their hands and say, "This is a stick up", what is the difference in morals?

The "stick up" man is less likely to be a sneak. Sun. 5-25-47

News and Courier

'Bad Element' Strengthened

Charleston, S.C.

In Greenville, South Carolina, a gang of men have been acquitted of murder. Undoubtedly, a man was murdered, foully. When, if and anywhere, men who in a gang have murdered and are "vindicated", members of a gang remain at whose hands law-abiding citizens may soon or late be assailed. The verdict in the Greenville trial contains danger to respectable people in that city and county though it may not appear in five years or 10 and never be associated with the verdict in the popular mind. Criminal proceedings in Greenville have been strengthened. The "bad element" in the population has every reason to feel encouraged. Sat. 5-24-47

News and Courier

Cities of Refuge Welcome

Charleston, S.C.

The mother of the negro who was murdered by a gang in Greenville (the negro is said to have stabbed a taxi driver who died from his wounds) is to speak in Madison Square Garden, New York, and it will be an occasion greatly enjoyed by many weepers and wailers and ravers. This is to the credit of New York as a city of free speech, and it is hoped that the woman upon her return to South Carolina will tell about it. New York is a welcoming city of refuge for the negroes of South Carolina who think of themselves as a persecuted people. Fortunately, the time has come when no person of any race, color or creed need stay in a land of persecutors. The cities of refuge for Southern negroes are many, besides New York, in the United States. Among them are Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Jersey City, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Seattle, Lincoln, the Springfields, Denver, Duluth, Columbus, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago. There are others, though we doubt if one be in Vermont or Maine. Sat. 5-24-47

WIPE BLOOD FROM OUR HANDS

Afro-American Baltimore, Md

The eyes of the nation—more likely the eyes of the world—will be focused next Monday, May 5, on Greenville, S.C., where 31 white men are scheduled to go on trial for the lynching of Willie Earle, 19-year-old youth.

30d(2)

They will be on this municipality in the home State of James F. Byrnes, former Secretary of State, as they have been upon numerous other Southern communities, to see whether there is still any semblance left of the justice and democracy about which we hear so much but see so little. Southern

The eyes of the world might well be upon Washington, the nation's capital, where demagogic Southern Congressmen, for years, have been able to prevent the passage of a federal anti-lynching law. The guilt that is Greenville's is also that of the greatest law-making body in the world. (S.C.)

There are few who expect more than a whitewash to come out of Greenville. Sat. 5-3-47

Not only the voice of Willie Earle but also the cries of countless victims of rope and fagot will echo through General Sessions Court there, crying for justice as the 31 men go on trial next Monday.

Said the Columbia Record:

> The last lynching in South Carolina will occur when the first lynchers in South Carolina pay with their lives for taking the law into their own hands.

Wrote a reader to a Spartanburg newspaper:

> We are unworthy of self-government if we continue to poison the minds of our youth with a racial attitude that imposes upon them a disrespect for law and man. A human society that will tolerate lynching is unfit to survive. It cannot, and will not, endure.

While education may help to curb the lynch spirit, the only effective deterrent against it is legislation making lynching a national offense.

There is certainly no consistency in talking about preserving "democracy" in Greece when the taking of a human life can be regarded lightly in any section of the United States. The crime of lynching lies not only upon the conscience of the South. It is a national disgrace.

Until lynching becomes a federal offense there can be little hope for relief. It has been demonstrated time and again that the States cannot be depended upon to cope with it satisfactorily. It is high time, therefore, for renewed efforts upon the part of all citizens to demand that their representatives in the present Congress pass a federal anti-lynching law.

Until such legislation is enacted, the blood of Willie Earle and of all of those who preceded him in death is upon the hands of us all. Sat. 5-3-47

A Jury Betrays Southern Justice

Richmond Times-Dispatch

THE whole nation must hang its head in shame over the verdict of the jury at Greenville, S. C., acquitting all the defendants in the lynching case there. The courageous efforts of GOVERNOR THURMOND and CIRCUIT JUDGE J. ROBERT MARTIN, JR., a Washington and Lee law graduate, were nullified and the country was disgraced by 12 defiant men who took the view that the lynching of a Negro is no crime. 30 L (2)

Of the 31 defendants in the case, 26 had signed unsworn statements admitting to police that they had helped take WILLIE EARLE, the Negro, to an old slaughter pen, where he was bludgeoned, slashed and shot to death. One man was identified by eight of his codefendants as having fired the shotgun blast which killed EARLE. He was not only acquitted, but the mother of one of the other defendants greeted him in open court after the verdict with the words "Thank God for you!" The whole thing is nauseating. Richmond, Va.

Be it noted that the defense put on no evidence whatever. It relied on the puerile argument of defense counsel that there had been "interference" and "meddling" in the affairs of Greenville County, and that this should be "rebuked." The lawyer was referring here to the fact that some of the evidence against the defendants had been gathered by the FBI. Obviously the jurors regarded a "rebuke" to these so-called "meddlers" as more important than a vindication of Southern justice.

The lynching curve had been going down for years, and we seemed to be approaching the complete elimination of this barbarity, but the brazen performance in South Carolina has altered the picture, and caused concern for the future. Will the Greenville verdict be an encouragement to lynchers everywhere? Consider the fact that after the ghastly brutality last Summer in Georgia, when two young Negroes and their wives were mowed down by shotguns, nobody was even arrested. And now the South Carolina affair greatly intensifies the alarm of those who fear for the good name of the South. Fri. 5-23-47

The article on this page from the New York *Times* staff correspondent at Greenville, and published in that newspaper last Sunday, gives some extremely favorable evidence concerning the enlightened and courageous minority in that Carolina city. So admirable a group of citizens is a credit to any community, and its influence will inevitably be felt more widely, in time. But nothing can wipe out the stain of the jury's verdict. It poses the question whether there should be additional Federal legislation for dealing with such cases.

Inevitably there will be an immediate demand for a Federal antilynching bill. Two questions arise here. The first is whether a jury drawn from a community for service in a Federal court is more likely to be fearless and impartial than a jury drawn from the same community for a State court. Since Federal juries seem generally to be composed of a more responsible type of citizenship than State juries, a Federal jury might be more fearless in the discharge of its duty. The second question which arises with respect to Federal antilynching legislation has to do with its constitutionality. There are grave doubts as to whether such a law would be constitutional. Fri. 5-23-47

DR. GUY B. JOHNSON, retiring head of the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, addressed PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S recently appointed Civil Rights Committee the other day in Washington on "Civil Rights in the South." He suggested that "what we really need is a constitutional amendment conferring upon Congress certain specific powers to protect human rights, implemented by a comprehensive new civil rights code." He viewed specific Federal antilynching legislation with skepticism, but said that "if a Federal statute with teeth in it can be drafted so as to stand the test of constitutionality, then we should have it."

One thing seems certain: The South Carolina travesty upon justice will increase the demand all over the United States for some sort of Federal law to cover such cases. Unless those Southern States which have contributed to this widespread demand by their failure to stop lynchings mend their ways at once, it is highly probable that additional Federal controls will be placed on the statute books or in the Constitution, or both. If that happens, the Georgia mob which murdered four innocent Negroes last Summer, when three of them were not even accused of anything, and the Greenville jury which blatantly disregarded the court's instructions and acquitted more than a score of self-confessed lynchers on Wednesday night, will have to take the responsibility.

Such things as have happened recently in Georgia and South Carolina must stop. The enlightened opinion of the South must be mobilized to stop them. Otherwise we Southerners will have no right to criticize Soviet Russia or Nazi Germany for their obscene betrayals of civil liberties and the judicial process.

Responsible for 'Mob Law'

News + Courier

Had the man who killed the taxi driver in Greenville county, brutally killed him, not been lynched (the doubt that the victim of the lynchers was the murderer of the taxi driver is negligible) he would have been arrested, tried, convicted, finally he would have been executed. 30 L (3)

Before his execution would have been long, tedious, exasperating delays. Cunning attorneys with their dilatory motions and appeals would have seen to that. They would have been paid. Societies of affection for colored people, not excluding the colored that kill, would have put up money for the defence of the "persecuted" creature.

Conferences of human welfarers probably would have exercised themselves. The long-time route to the federal supreme court would have been sought. Fri. 5-23-47

Eighteen months or two years would have passed before the murderer of the taxi driver would have met his death.

When a murder is done in South Carolina the man or men accused of it should be tried, convicted or acquitted within two months. That is the limit of time required for it in England, in any well governed state. Charleston, S.C.

In England the slayer of the taxi driver would not have been lynched, but five or six weeks before May 21 he would have swung from the gallows tree.

South Carolina is not a well governed state. It is attorney–governed. Lynchings will be no more in South Carolina when and if its people learn to govern. They allow their attorneys, judges, courts to dillydally with trials of felons. Until they shall compel the swift and certain enforcement of laws that their constitutions command gangs will lynch murderers and other arch villains, negroes or white persons, whether dependence be on state or federal courts to punish them lawfully. Fri. 5-23-47

The cause of lynching is the incompetency of the people to enforce laws that they rely on lawyers to make and allow to play with for the money that is in it.

The legislators, the governors, the courts are the agents of the people.

A people who do not enforce their criminal laws with sureness and swiftness are responsible for "mob law". Themselves delinquent, they therefore excuse the mobs.

30e 1947 General

7543

30e/9

THE MID-SOUTH

— By —
HAROLD L. TRIGG

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

Interpretation Of Law Important For Its Enforcement, But Law Breaks Down Unless Uniformly Enforced; Must Apply Alike To All Citizens

Sat. 7-12-47

ATLANTA, Ga.—After a law is made its interpretation and enforcement depend on variations in meaning attributed to the letter of the law by individual humans. Some officials of the law think that a statute applies to all men alike. Still some others think it means one thing for white men and another for black. Still others do not think at at all when a Negro is involved. They only feel.

This lack of uniformity in interpretation of the printed word brings justice close to the realm of mockery at times. Then some outstanding act of courage by an official of the law revives one's faith in the legal process if and when in the hands of the right official.

A Negro at Carrollton, Ga., had shot and killed a white man. He claimed that he was shooting rabbits and that the fatal bullet was not meant for the man. A mob, some of whom wore masks and others with blackened faces, surrounded the jail where the youth was confined on last Monday night, bent on a lynching. A deputy sheriff, who lived three miles away, had seen the mob traveling by car and bus toward the jail. He notified the town chief of police by telephone, and arrived at the jail himself before the mobsters could get there. The two officers kept the mob at bay until reinforcements arrived. They refused to give up their prisoner to lynchers of the law. The Negro was later brought to Atlanta for safe keeping.

* * * *

The courage of Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert and Police Chief Rada Threadgill at Carrollton in the face of manhandling and the threats of death from the mob is concrete evidence that some officers respect the law, and feel a sense of responsibility for making others respect it. They are to be commended.

The careful selection of law enforcement officers is one solution to the problem of mob violence. Variations in the interpretation of the legal word are not confined to enforcement officers. Judges frequently differ in the seriousness which they attach to an offense when only Negroes are involved in the crime.

A Negro charged with attempt to rape a white woman at Hurtsboro, Ala. was saved from the mob by the courageous Mayor of the town. He was later tried and sentenced to tweny years in prison.

* * * *

A case in contrast is that of a Negro, George Warrior, 28, of Atlanta. He and a companion, Dorsey Whatley, stopped a colored woman on the street on the night of May 6, forced her at pistol point to get into Warrior's car, took her to a secluded spot and raped her. This same hoodlum, Warrior, had taken an "attractive" young colored girl from her male escort in January and raped her. In the same month he and his friend took a woman from her husband and raped her; then attempted rape on two other women in February, another in March, and another in April. An eighth intended victim was accosted by him while walking along the street with her husband. She escaped.

With three completed rapes, four attempts, and one robbery marked up against him, Warrior was tried on the May 6 incident and sentenced to twenty years. He is yet to be tried on the other counts. Warrior's companion in the May 6 crime pleaded guilty to the charge of criminal assault and was sentenced to 12 to 20 years at hard labor.

Sat. 7/12/47

The Negro youth at Hurtsboro received 20 years for attempted assault on a white woman. The two Atlanta Negro rapists get 20 years, and 12-20 years, respectively, for actual rape of a colored woman.

So long as the only determinant of crime is who does it to whom, the law is a myth. The sacredness of the person of Negro women is as essential to the survival of American democracy as that of white—whether the male be white or black. Law is no law unless it applies uniformly. A light sentence for Negroes who rape colored women is an invitation to widen the circle of rape objectives.

7500

Convicting Lynchers Is Possible But Rare

B'ham., Ala. News Mon. 6-9-47

30e(1) Gen.

BY ROMNEY WHEELER

ATLANTA, Ga., June 9—(AP)—Can the South convict its lynchers? Despite South Carolina's acquittal of 28 white men, 26 of whom acknowledged participation in a lynch-murder, the answer is "Yes." But it must be followed with prompt qualification: Convictions are rare and unlikely.

Although lynching has diminished rapidly since 1922, the brutal business of faggot and rope and trial by fury has persisted in the South. Perpetrators have had 99 per cent chance of going free.

Even where determined prosecution is forthcoming, as in the unprecedented mass trial at Greenville, it is difficult to obtain convictions. Southern juries—neighbors and fellow-townspeople of the accused—are reluctant to return a "guilty" verdict for a crime tolerated by "Southern tradition."

Tuskegee Institute, which keeps the nearest to official statistics, reports 1,973 persons lynched in the United States since 1900. Against that total only 82 convictions have been obtained by state or federal law-enforcement officers. A majority of the lynchings were in the South, and 67 of the convictions were in Southern states.

James Harmon Chadbourn, formerly of the University of North Carolina law department, estimates that less than 1 per cent of lynchings in the United States have been followed by convictions.

* * *

THE REASONS, HE SAYS, are not obscure. First, there is the refusal of persons with first-hand knowledge to testify. Second, trial juries frequently act upon local prejudice, instead of considered evidence. Third, grand juries frequently refuse to indict. Fourth, prosecuting officers usually are disinclined to investigate, and police officers are "unable" to identify mob members. Last, higher courts often reverse convictions on non-prejudicial error.

The State of Alabama probably has the South's best record of convictions. In 1919 and 1920, quick and determined action by Gov. Thomas E. Kilby resulted in conviction of 31 lynchers. Twenty-eight were given sentences ranging from $100 fine to 15 years in prison, and three others were given fines of $100 and up to three months in jail.

Previously, Alabama had convicted three lynchers in 1900, sentencing them to 10 years to life. In 1924, a National Guardsman was convicted on a lynching charge and sentenced to 18 years, but the trial court's judgment was reversed. In 1925 three other convictions were reversed after five appeals.

Thus, Alabama returned convictions in the ratio of one for every 10 persons lynched since 1900—a high percentage in the South.

No convicted lyncher, however, ever has been sentenced to death.

In records of the Southern Regional Council, Georgia stands as the only Southern state to have meted out straight life sentences for lynching. These were assessed in 1930, when Thomas County residents became incensed over two lynchings in three days.

* * *

THE BORDER STATE of Oklahoma convicted seven lynchers in 1922, and sentenced all seven to life imprisonment.

The Georgia case had a nullifying sequel. Although two men were sentenced to life for lynching a Negro who had testified against white men charged with raping a young Negro mother, both were paroled after only seven years.

One dropped out of sight. The parole of the other was twice revoked and twice reinstated. Finally, in 1946, a warrant was issued for a third revocation after Florida convicted him of receiving stolen property. The warrant still stands, unserved, with notation "cannot be found."

Georgia convicted three other lynchers in 1922, sentencing them to from one to four years, and in 1926 two lynchers were sentenced to four years each. In 1943, a Georgia sheriff was prosecuted in United States District Court, and sentenced to three years imprisonment and $1,000 fine. His conviction, however, was set aside by the Supreme Court of the United States, and prosecution was not renewed.

At Manchester, Tenn., in 1934, eight lynchers were convicted and sentenced to from three to five years each—but there is no record of terms being served.

In South Carolina, three men were convicted of manslaughter in 1941 after the fatal beating of a Negro at Georgetown. The case was appealed, and here, too, there is no record of time served.

* * *

TEXAS HAS A RECORD of five convictions—three in 1920 in which the sentence was two years, suspended; and two in 1930 where the lynchers got two years each. Virginia convicted two persons in 1923, and sentenced them to from one to two years.

North Carolina, which has had no lynching since 1935, is particularly proud of its record. Although 99 lynchings have been charged to the state since 1900, its governors have acted swiftly to presecute where it was possible to do so. Four white men were imprisoned for an unsuccessful attempt to remove a Negro from Buncombe County jail in 1925.

At least three of the defendants in the Greenville, S. C., mass trial were illiterate, a fourth acknowledged a second-grade education, and a fifth had gone through the third grade. Thomas Wofford, leading defense attorney, observed later he believed education for both races eventually would be the solution to lynching.

IN THIS CONNECTION, the Southern Regional Council quc statistics showing that the 12 states leading in lynching since 1882 are the same 12 which rank lowest in education.

Here is the record:

Lynchings, 1882-1946—Mississippi 574, Georgia 525, Texas 498, Louisiana 391, Alabama 346, Arkansas 285, Florida 281, Tennessee 250, Kentucky 205, South Carolina 159, North Carolina 99, Virginia 99.

Education Index (1946)—Mississippi 68, Alabama 73, Arkansas 73, Kentucky 74, South Carolina 75, Georgia 77, Tennessee 83, Louisiana 85, Virginia 86, North Carolina 86, Florida 87, Texas 91. (National average 100.)

Proposals for federal anti-lynching laws have been bitterly opposed by Southern congressmen and senators, often with resort to filibuster. However, many sincere law-enforcement officers doubt that federal statutes would greatly increase convictions.

These officials observe that even if federal agents brought charges, and a federal Grand Jury indicted, defendants still would be tried in their U. S. District Court, before juries chosen from their own people. Mon. 6-9-47

* * *

OTHER REMEDIES have been proposed, and in some instances successfully tried. One of these is citation for contempt of court. The Supreme Court of the United States held Tennessee lynchers in contempt when a Negro was slain in 1906 after the high court granted a stay of execution. In 1901, Judge Enson, of Alabama, sentenced several witnesses for contempt in refusing to testify in a lynch investigation.

Another — infrequently used — is the injunction. This was invoked in 1922 by Judge Blanton Fortson, of Athens, Ga., in restraining certain named persons from further mob violence against a Negro.

Quick change of venue for accused prisoners, to avoid lynch tension, also has been urged, along with mandatory suspension of sheriffs from whom prisoners are taken.

One of the biggest obstacles to any state prosecution, however, is the attitude of some local enforcement officers. (30e(1))

Contrary to popular notions, less than one-fourth of the persons lynched were accused of assault on women. The Southern Regional Council lists the accusations as rape and attempted rape, 24 per cent; murder, 37 per cent, and all others, 39 per cent. Gen.

Alabama Has Best Record Of Convictions For Lynchings

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser Sun. 6-15-47

30e(1) Gen.

By ROMNEY WHEELER

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Quick Action

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Georgia Convicted 3

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"When the State of North Carolina takes a prisoner into custody, it then becomes responsible for his safety, and that responsibility remains until his case is disposed of in accordance with law. A prisoner in custody of the law is entitled to the same protection as is the judge on the bench, or the solicitor who represents the State in the prosecution."

Poorly Educated

Although North Carolina insists it was a simple killing, and not a lynching, the State is credited by Tuskegee Institute with swift punishment of four white men who were sentenced to from 10 to 25 years for killing a Negro near Gastonia, N. C., in 1941.

At least three of the defendants in the Greenville, S. C., mass trial were illiterate, a fourth acknowledged a second-grade education, and a fifth had gone through the third grade. Thomas Wofford, leading defense attorney, observed later he believed education for both races eventually would be the solution to lynching.

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LIFE IS CHEAP IN DIXIE

Afro American-Baltimore Md.

30e (1) gen.

An all-white U.S. District Court jury recently freed five white suspects in the lynching of a man near Minden, La., last summer.

Despite the naming of a trigger man, a coroner's jury at Greenville, S.C., last week refused to agree to include in its verdict the names of 31 whites accused in the lynching of Willie Earle on Feb. 17, but said, instead, that Earle came to his death "from a shotgun wound inflicted by party or parties of a mob . . ." Sat. 3-22-47

A white Barnwell (S.C.) farmer has been acquitted of murder charges in the slaying of James Walker Jr., last August, and two white men, one of whom admitted beating a 19-year-old witness in last summer's Monroe, Ga., quadruple lynching, were acquitted.

Meanwhile, no further definitive action has been taken in the Monroe lynch case nor in the case of the white men who recently mutilated a Navy vet near Collins, Miss.

Except for a 1-3-year prison sentence handed a white deputy sheriff in Athens, Tenn., for shooting a war veteran who attempted to vote on election day last August, there has been no indication whatever that the South intends to do any more than it has in the past where crimes of white persons against colored citizens are involved. Sat. 3-22-47

Despite all of the talk of interracial progress in Dixie, incidents such as these would seem to represent the Southern temper far more realistically than the mouthing of a few time-worn platitudes around the conference table. And until positive action is taken to correct such injustices, it will be exceedingly difficult for outsiders to swallow Dixie's progress stories.

Hats Off To The F. B. I.

The Black Dispatch — Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

30e (1)

One outstanding credit that can go to the Federal Bureau of Investigation rests in its exposure of the mob. As usual in both North and South Carolina, local authorities were unable to discover any evidence of lynchers. The community conspiracy of silence was lifted when the FBI walked in and supplied local law agencies with a mass of irrufutable evidence including several confessions.

All-white juries in both instances failed to return a true verdict in these cases, yet both states stand convicted before the bar of public opinion, for neither have to-date dared to dispute, or disagree with the evidence vouched for by the FBI. The only argument that can be used is the out-worn assertion that the South does not want any carpet-baggerism, such as the federal government meddling in its affairs.

Of course we realize but for the meddling of the federal government in the affairs of Dixie, slavery would still exist in the United States. But for the intervention of out-side morality the whipping post, open prostitution of Negro women and chattle slavery would fester below the Mason and Dixon line so we have no fears respecting the efficacy of carpet-baggerism dispite the fact that Southerners remind us of the remark made by Franklin Delano Roosevelt when he ran for office the second time, and during the campaign reminded his enemies they were likened to the man, who apparently near death when the doctor arrived, immediately jumped up and kicked his physician as soon as he was sufficiently revived. Sat. 8-23-47

Few there are who know that but for the intervention of the federal government through the interstate commerce commission the economics of the South would be sadly muddled. State rights and local self government in the early years of the nation had commerce and trade in an ugly snarl that eventually would have thrown an otherwise prosperous nation into chaos. It has been the constant intervention of the federal government in the affairs of Dixie that makes it a place possible for survival.

One of these days, when red revolution flows in the streets, as it did in an incipient way, when the soldiers returned to Athens, Tenn., where one group of whites decided to do another group of whites as they commonly do the blacks, we are going to wish down in Dixie we had had more respect for law and order. The whites, unused to this sort of circumvention of constitutional guarantees successfully shot and blasted their way towards constitutional government. Sat. 8-23-47

Of course this is a sad commentary upon the democratic process, and immediately reminds us of the revolutionary propensities of our neighbors in the Republics below the Rio Grande. We are inclined to laugh at them, but it looks as though the states of this nation are destined to inherit the same type of internal disorders before the goals of liberalism are obtained. Take for instance the goals of labor. This by no means is a matter solely relating to the interests of the blacks. Industrial goons, authorized to act as deputy sheriffs and constables, are inclined to circumvent law and the constitution in labor disputes, just as is done when problems relating to the blacks arise. In the next few years, applying the techniques and methods on labor that the South has endorsed and supported in the suppression of Negroes, is going to bring serious trouble down in Dixie, for it will mean from time to time a "shooting war" indulged in by the "poor whites" who are now assuming the militant attitude of the Athens, Tennessee citizens. Sat. 8-23-47

Perhaps before we get to a shooting war down in Dixie, with labor arrayed against management, the FBI will have so completely exposed the rotten guts of local self government that the nation as a whole will arise and puke up, and out of the body politic, this cancerous growth we have been developing across the years. We cannot go on ignoring, circumventing and distroying our constitution and at the same time preserve that immortal document. Perhaps there is efficacy and virtue in what the FBI is doing in exposing the mob. We are not getting any definite and specific convictions, but after all we are convicting before the bar of national opinion the real defendant, which is constituted out of southern community conspiracy to shield and hide murderers and law violators

30e(1) 1947

General

7501

How FBI Moves In Lynchings

Negro

BY JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON, May 30—(AP)—Lynching is murder under state laws, but there's no federal law against lynching.

So how can the FBI, a federal agency, whose job is to investigate violations of federal laws, investigate lynchings?

30e(1)

Here's an explanation:

The U. S. constitution says no state shall deprive a person of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

30e(1)

So, before a state can take away a man's property or take his life by executing him, he must be given a fair trial.

Gen.

If a man is taken into custody or locked up, pending trial, it's the state's duty to see he is unharmed while he's in custody or jail.

When a man is lynched, the FBI's first question is: Did the state do all it could to protect him before the lynch mob got him?

And—

Birmingham Ala

Did a jailer or sheriff or policeman, representing the state, try to protect the prisoner? Or did they conspire with the lynch mob?

If it's just a lynching by a mob, with no state officer involved, that's just murder under state law. The FBI can't bring charges.

* * *

IT CAN'T BRING CHARGES because, as noted, there's no federal law making lynching of itself a crime.

But the FBI can act if a state officer—like jailer or sheriff—in any way conspired with a mob bent on lynching a prisoner.

The FBI can act in such a case; it can bring certain charges, because there are federal laws backing up the constitution.

Briefly, those laws make it a crime:

5-31-47

For a state official of any kind to conspire with anyone to deprive a man of his rights under the constitution.

The penalties under these federal laws run from 1 to 10 years in jail and fines of $1,000 to $5,000.

The FBI—as soon as it learns of a lynching—can move right in, always on the theory that maybe a state officer was involved.

If it investigates and finds it can take no action under federal law—because no state officer was involved—the FBI can do this:

* * *

IT CAN TURN OVER to state authorities, for action under state laws, whatever information it has been able to pick up.

Recently 31 white men in Greenville, S. C., were charged in a state court with lynching a Negro.

The FBI found no violation of federal law, so it turned its information over to the state. The men were acquitted.

This week again in North Carolina the FBI provided officials with information on which seven white men were charged with kidnaping a Negro.

In this case, the FBI moved in as soon as it heard reports a Negro had been taken from jail. He escaped the mob.

The FBI's work on lynchings has been under way only since about 1940.

In 1939 a special section on civil rights was set up in the Justice Department.

It took the government attorneys about a year, after studying the law, to decide how they could move to stop lynchings.

Hickory

They decided to use the federal laws, mentioned here, as the wedge for the FBI's work.

Can the South Convict Lynch Mob Members?

30e(1) Gen.

By Romney Wheeler

Associated Press Correspondent

Richmond Times-Dispatch
Richmond, Va.

ATLANTA.

CAN the South convict its lynchers?

Despite South Carolina's acquittal of 28 white men, 26 of whom acknowledged participation in a lynch-murder, the answer is "yes." But it must be followed with prompt qualification: Convictions are rare and unlikely. Sun. 6-8-47

Although lynching has diminished rapidly since 1922, the brutal business of faggot and rope and trial by fury has persisted in the South. Perpetrators have had 99 per cent chance of going free.

Even where determined prosecution is forthcoming, as in the unprecedented mass trial at Greenville, it is difficult to obtain convictions. Southern juries—neighbors and fellow-townspeople of the accused—are reluctant to return a "guilty" verdict for a crime tolerated by "Southern tradition."

Tuskegee Institute, which keeps the nearest to official statistics, reports 1,973 persons lynched in the United States since 1900. Against that total only 82 convictions have been obtained by State or Federal law-enforcement officers. A majority of the lynchings were in the South, and 67 of the convictions were in Southern States.

James Harmon Chadbourn, formerly of the University of North Carolina law department, estimates that less than 1 per cent of lynchings in the United States have been followed by convictions. Sun. 6-8-47

The reasons, he says, are not obscure. First, there is the refusal of persons with first-hand knowledge to testify. Second, trial juries frequently act upon local prejudice, instead of considered evidence. Third, grand juries frequently refuse to indict. Fourth, prosecuting officers usually are disinclined to investigate, and police officers are "unable" to identify mob members. Last, higher courts often reverse convictions on nonprejudicial error.

Alabama's Records

The State of Alabama probably has the South's best record of convictions. In 1919 and 1920, quick and determined action by Governor Thomas E. Kilby resulted in conviction of 31 lynchers. Twenty-eight were given sentences ranging from $100 fine to 15 years in prison, and three others were given fines of $100 and up to three months in jail.

Previously, Alabama had convicted three lynchers in 1900, sentencing them to 10 years to life. In 1924, a National Guardsman was convicted on a lynching charge and sentenced to 18 years, but the trial court's judgment was reversed. In 1925 three other convictions were reversed after five appeals.

Thus, Alabama returned convictions in the ratio of one for every 10 persons lynched since 1900—a high percentage in the South.

No convicted lyncher, however, ever has been sentenced to death.

In records of the Southern Regional Council, Georgia stands as the only Southern State to have meted out straight life sentences for lynching. These were assessed in 1930, when Thomas County residents became incensed over two lynchings in three days.

The border State of Oklahoma convicted seven lynchers in 1922, and sentenced all seven to life imprisonment.

The Georgia case had a nullifying sequel. Although two men were sentenced to life for lynching a Negro who had testified against white men charged with raping a young Negro mother, both were paroled after only seven years.

One dropped out of sight. The parole of the other was twice revoked and twice reinstated. Finally, in 1946, a warrant was issued for a third revocation after Florida convicted him of receiving stolen property. The warrant still stands, unserved, with notation "cannot be found."

Georgia convicted three other lynchers in 1922, sentencing them to from one to four years, and in 1926 two lynchers were sentenced to four years each. In 1943, a Georgia sheriff was prosecuted in United States District Court, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment and $1,000 fine. His conviction, however, was set aside by the Supreme Court of the United States, and prosecution was not renewed. Sun. 6-8-47

At Manchester, Tenn., in 1934, eight lynchers were convicted and sentenced to from three to five years each—but there is no record of terms being served.

In South Carolina three men were convicted of manslaughter in 1941 after the fatal beating of a Negro at Georgetown. The case was appealed and here, too, there is no record of time served.

Virginia Convictions

TEXAS has a record of five convictions—three in 1920, in which, the sentence was two years, suspended; and two in 1930, where the lynchers got two years each. Virginia convicted two persons in 1923, and sentenced them to from one to two years.

30e(1)

North Carolina, which has had no lynching since 1935, is particularly proud of its record. Although 99 lynchings have been charged to the State since 1900, its Governors have acted swiftly to prosecut where it was possible to do so. Four white men were imprisoned for an unscuccessful attempt to remove a Negro from Buncombe County jail in 1925. When they applied for clemency, the late Governor A. W. McLean said:

"When the State of North Carolina takes a prisoner into custody, it then becomes responsible for his safety, and that responsibility remains until his case is disposed of in accordance with law. A prisoner in custody of the law is entitled to the same protection as is the judge on the bench, or the solicitor who represents the State in the prosecution."

Although North Carolina insists it was a simple killing, and not a lynching, the State is credited by Tuskegee Institute with swift punishment of four white men who were sentenced to from 10 to 25 years for killing a Negro near Gastonia, N. C., in 1941.

At least three of the defendants in the Greenville mass trial were illierate, a fourth acknowledged a second-grade education, and a fifth had gone through the third grade. Thomas Wofford, leading defense attorney, observed later he believed education for both races eventually would be the solution to lynching. Sun. 6-8-47

In this connection, the Southern Regional Council quotes statistics showing that the 12 States leading in lynching since 1882 are the same 12 which rank lowest in education.

Here is the record:

Lynchings, 1882-1946—Mississippi, 574; Georgia, 525; Texas, 498; Louisiana, 391; Alabama, 346; Arkansas, 285; Florida, 281; Tennessee, 250; Kentucky, 205; South Carolina, 159; North Carolina, 99; Virginia, 99.

Education index (1946)—Mississippi, 68; Alabama, 73; Arkansas, 73; Kentucky, 74; South Carolina, 75; Georgia, 77; Tennessee, 83; Louisiana, 85; Virginia, 86; North Carolina, 86; Florida, 87; Texas, 91. (National average, 100).

Proposals for Federal antilynching laws have been bitterly opposed by Southern Congressmen and Senators, often with resort to filibuster. However, many sincere law-enforcement officers doubt that Federal statutes would greatly increase convictions.

These officials observe that even if Federal agents brought charges, and a Federal grand jury indicted, defendants still would be tried in their United States District Court, before juries chosen from their own people.

They agree, however, that Federal statutes would greatly increase the risk of complaisant sheriffs and their deputies who surrendered prisoners without bona fide efforts to protect them.

Proposed Remedies

Other remedies have been proposed, and in some instances successfully tried. One of these is citation for contempt of court. The Supreme Court of the United States held Tennessee lynchers in contempt when a Negro was slain in 1906 after the high court granted a stay of execution. In 1901, Judge Enson, of Alabama, sentenced several witnesses for contempt in refusing to testify in a lynch investigation.

Another—infrequently used—is the injunction. This was invoked in 1922 by Judge Blanton Fortson, of Athens, Ga., in restraining certain named persons from further mob violence against a Negro.

South Carolina officials believe the Greenville verdict would have been the same anywhere south of the Mason-Dixon Line, except, possibly, by a blue ribbon jury. In this connection, some Southern authorities have suggested that lynchings be investigated under direction of the chief justice of the highest appellate court, with a list of jurors drawn from as many adjoining counties as the court saw fit. Prosecution would be headed by the Attorney-General.

7501

Conviction of Southern Lynch Mobs Are Rare, But Recorded

The News And Courier — Charleston, S.C.

By ROMNEY WHEELER

ATLANTA, June 7. (AP): Can the South convict its lynchers?

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be for the benefit of our community.

The railroads entering Charleston contribute to every phase of its economic, civic and moral life; and, as railroad men, who know the pulse of transportation life better perhaps than others, we earnestly protest any further action along the lines proposed.

As you know, transportation is the foundation of industry. What inducement can you offer prospective industry seeking a new field if your transportation systems are penalized and curtailed, or perhaps banished from the city entirely?

As railroad men, we have listened complacently to what has been said within the last few months, but we feel that the time has come for us to appeal to those who represent us, or will represent us in city council, state assembly, etc.

Why kill the goose that lays the golden egg?

E. O. UTSEY,
Local Chairman, Order Railway
Conductors, Southern Railway
Company.
Charleston.

30e(1) 1947

Georgia

7502

Investigation of Mass Lynching Suspended

Black Dispatch

8-16-47

WASHINGTON, D. C., July — (NNPA) — One year after the mass lynching of four persons—two men and their wives—in Walton county, Georgia, the Federal Bureau of Investigation disclosed that it has suspended its investigation disclosed that it has suspended its investigation of the crime, leaving unsolved a mystery to which nearly every white person in the county knows the answer.

Oklahoma City, Okla.

The victims were Roger Malcolm, 27; his wife, Dorothy, 20; George Dorsey, 30, and his wife, May, 30. They were lined up along a scheduled roadside and shot to death on July 25, 1946, by an unmasked band of twenty white men who held their employer, J. Loy Harrison, a white farmer, at gunpoint durign the lynching.

Harrison had just obtained Malcolm's release from jail at Monroe where he was being held for stabbing his employer, Barney Hester, 22. Harrison had posted $600 bond for Malcom's release and was on his way back to his own farm where the quartet were to have worked for him.

A Federal grand jury at Athens, Georgia, reported last December 19, after investigating the mass killings, that it had been unable to fix the identify of any members of the mob.

7478

Defendants Acquitted In Louisiana Flogging

SHREVEPORT, La., March 1—(AP)—A U. S. District Court Jury Saturday acquitted all five defendants in a civil rights case growing out of the beating ew two Negroes, with fatal effects for one, last Aug. 8. 30e(1) La.

The jury deliberated two hours before reporting its verdict, received in silence by a courtroom full of spectators. Judge Gaston L. Porterie before having the verdict read warned spectators he expected "proper composure and no demonstrations." Sun. 3-9-47

The charges on which the five Webster Parish men, including two sheriff's deputies, were acquitted, alleged conspiracy to violate the civil rights of two Negroes who the government said were taken from the parish jail in Minden and flogged in the woods several miles from the town. The body of one was found several days later.

Justice Dept. Studies Failure Of Lynch Trial

30e(1) La.

Daily Worker

Sat 3-15-47

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The Department of Justice will study the records of the Minden, Louisiana trial, in which five white accused lynchers were acquitted last week, Assistant Attorney General Therom Caudle announced.

New York, N.Y.

Despite FBI and police evidence supporting the testimony of Albert Harris, 16, who was mutilated when John C. Jones was murdered, the all-white jury freed the five.

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5 Suspects in Minden Lynching Freed by All-White Jury After 5-Day Trial

30e(1) La. Afro-American

Baltimore, Md. Sat. 3-8-47

Defense Counsel Raps Easterners, Scores Federal Intrusion; 80 Witnesses on Hand

SHREVEPORT, La. — An all-white U.S. District Court jury, Saturday, acquitted five defendants (two deputy sheriffs and three oil field workers), indicted for violating the civil rights of John C. Jones, who was lynched, Albert Harris Jr., 17, his cousin, who was brutally flogged, last Aug. 8, near Minden. Sat. 3-8-47

Several attempts to quash the indictments failed. They charged the defendants with "conspiracy to deprive Jones and Harris of rights, privileges and immunities" guaranteed under the Constitution.

The deputy sheriffs were charged directly with depriving Jones and Harris of their civil rights by causing them to be released from the Webster parish jail at Minden, "and handed over to the mob."

Charges against Police Chief Benjamin Gantt of Minden were dropped previously because of lack of evidence.

Trial Lasts Five Days

Trial of the defendants, Deputy Sheriffs Oscar H. Haynes Jr. and Charles M. Edwards, and Samuel C. Maddry Sr., William D. Perkins and Henry E. Perry opened Feb. 25, and final evidence was presented on Friday.

The charge to the jury Saturday by Judge Gaston L. Porterie and the arguments required five hours. 30e(1) La.

The battered body of Jones, a veteran of three overseas campaigns, was found at Dorcheat Bayou by fishermen on Aug. 10. It had been seared and partly castrated. Sat. 3-8-47

Harris, the principal prosecution witness, testified Monday afternoon concerning the lynching of Jones, and told how he had survived three beatings, administered by law officers and members of the mob.

Tell of Beatings

His body is still covered with scars left by the lynchers' ropes and bludgeons.

He said the beatings were administered so as to force him to confess that he spied on Mrs. Samuel Maddry Jr., daughter-in-law of one of the defendants.

Harris testified further that he was whipped twice by a group of men, including the elder Maddry and Perkins, and was beaten once in the jail while in custody of Deputy Sheriff Haynes Jr.

He said he named Jones as the man who had been detected spying on Mrs. Maddry after he had been whipped.

Assault Plot Alleged

Samuel Maddry Jr., 27, son of one of the defendants, the first government witness called, testified that his father told him Harris had confessed to a plot in which Jones was to criminally assault the younger Maddry's wife.

He said Mrs. Maddry had seen a colored man in her yard who fled without trying to enter the house. Sat. 3-8-47

The description of a man seen near his house, he asserted, "could have fitted" Harris, who lived only a short distance away, and who, upon investigation, he saw standing outside the door of his house.

He also found, he testified further, indications that the wire fence around his house had been scaled, and that a screen on one window had been loosened.

Released, Re-arrested

As a result of these findings, Harris was arrested and brought to him for identification, after which he was taken to jail.

Young Maddry said his father asserted that Harris confessed to the plot, but he could not be convicted of a serious offense without proof. Harris was released, then jailed again after Jones had been arrested. Sat. 3-8-47

A record was set Tuesday when 224 pages of transcript were taken.

Harris testified that day that three of the defendants, Edwards, Perkins and Perry, were not present when he and Jones were taken from the jail in automobiles to the scene of the lynching.

Defense Ruse Fails

Cross-examining Harris, Harmon C. Drew, defense attorney, caused a sensation by asking the youth, "Did you kill Jones?"

"Didn't you kill him?" Drew pressed. "Didn't you drown him?" Harris replied, "No."

Cross-examined about the beating, Harris said he and Jones were forced to undress and were beaten with a strap, and that Jones had been previously beaten on the head as they were taken from the jail. Jones had to be carried.

Stories on the lynching carried by the Pittsburgh Courier were used by the defense in questioning Harris as to the part of his expenses borne by the NAACP.

Easterners, FBI Rapped

On the second day of the precedent-making trial, defense counsel charged that "this prosecution has been engineered by minority elements in the East."

In cross-examining Police Chief Gantt, one of the 80 witnesses called, defense counsel asked:

Whether or not FBI Agents Kline Weatherford and Vincent Drain had told him "they had orders from Washington to get indictments at any cost"; and

Whether the agents had threatened witnesses with perjury charges, if "they did not say the right thing?" Sat. 3-8-47

Intrusion Resented

He told the jury:

"We resent the intrusion of the federal government in our local affairs. This prosecution was fomented and started by a colored uplift society up North, aided and abetted by the FBI."

Following the lynching, NAACP investigators and colored newspaper men invaded the scene and furnished the FBI with a detailed account of the crimes and names of the members of the mob.

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7478

30e(1) (1946)

LYNCHING FIGURE ASKS
$50,000 SUIT DISMISSAL   September 12, 1947

Shreveport, La., Sep 10th--A plea to the jurisdiction of United States District Court asking the dismissal of the $50,000 damages suit brought by Mrs. Carrie Lee Jones, widow of John C. Jones, Minden lynch mob victim, against Oscar Henry Haynes, Sr., sheriff of Webster Parish, was filed here Tuesday by attorneys representing the defendant.

9-12-47 La. NAACP Chief Desmondo

In seeking the dismissal of the suit, Attorney Harry D. Booth of Shreveport, of the Booth, Lockard and Jack law firm, represented Sheriff Haynes and raised several exceptions on which he based the plea.

Haynes' attorneys contended that Mrs. Jones is not a bona fide resident of California, as was stated in her petition, and that if she is now living in California she is merely there for the sole and "exclusive purpose of attempting to vest jurisdiction" in the federal court. La.

It was further contended that on or about August 7, 1946, Mrs. Jones was a resident and citizen of Webster Parish, La., and continued to be a resident and citizen; and that her present residency in California was brought about by the intervention of a third person solely for the purpose of bringing the suit and attempting to vest jurisdiction thereof in the federal courts.

9-12-47

In conclusion, it was requested that plaintiff's suit be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

NAACP Attorney A. P. Tureaud, representing Mrs. Jones, described the plea as an attempt to raise "sectional prejudices" in the case.

La. NAACP Chief Demands

John C. Jones, a World War II veteran, was taken from the Webster Parish jail at Minden, La. where Haynes is sheriff, on August 7, 1946 and was lynched by a white mob at Dorcheat Bayou. His 17-year-old cousin, Albert "Sonny Man" Harris, also taken from the jail with Jones where both were held on suspicion of spying on a white woman, was severely beaten but feigned death and was successful in escaping the mob and fleeing to the New York headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People where he told a full story of the lynching.

New Orleans newspapermen and NAACP officials conducted an on-the-scene investigation of the affair and secured the names of several alleged members of the mob. Five of the persons were brought to trial and were found not guilty.

Mrs. Jones fled her home in Cotton Valley shortly after the investigation, going to Shreveport thence to Los Angeles, California. At that time Mrs. Jones told newspapermen that she feared for her life

and that of her small daughter, Myrtiss Ann, because she had been warned by a friendly white woman that there was a plot afoot to kill her and to remove the body of her slain husband from the grave and burn it.

(30 e(1) La. (1946)

9-12-47 La NAACP Chief Demands

Some weeks ago, Mrs. Jones, represented by Attorney Tureaud, brought suit against Sheriff Haynes and his surety company for $50,000 charging that he failed to protect her husband from the mob which seized him on the threshold of the jail.

30e(1) 1947 Mississippi (1946)

7545

'Clean Up' Lady Editor Gets OK from Mississippi High Court

PM New York, N.Y.

30e(1) Tues. 4-8-47

"Freedom of the press is no idle and meaningless term," the Mississippi Supreme Court held yesterday when overruling the conviction of Hazel Brannon, 32-year-old weekly newspaper publisher held in contempt last October by a Lexington judge when she questioned the wife of a slain Negro outside the courtroom.

When passing sentence on Miss Brannon at Lexington, Judge S. F. Davis indicated that he didn't quite approve of her crusading attempt to "clean up" Holmes County, Miss. Chief target of her campaign in her weeklies, the Lexington *Advertiser* and Durant *News*, had been Sheriff W. L. Murtaugh.

The fighting lady editor was specifically accused of talking outside the courtroom with the widow of Leon McAttee, whom five white men were accused of flogging to death. They admitted the whipping, but were acquitted by a jury which deliberated for 10 minutes.

Judge Davis refused to accept Miss Brannon's explanation that she wasn't aware that Mrs. McAtee had been placed in the court's custody as a witness. He fined her $50 and gave her a 15-day prison sentence, then suspended the jail term provided she "behaved" herself for two years. Tues. 4-8-47

7546

Carolinians Freed in Lynch Case; Governor Will Order It Reopened

Times-New York, N.Y.

30e(1)

By The Associated Press. Wed. 8-6-47

JACKSON, N. C., Aug. 5—Seven white men were freed today on charges of a lynching attempt upon a young Negro and soon afterward Gov. R. Gregg Cherry condemned failure of the Northampton County grand jury to indict them as "a miscarriage of justice."

The grand jury, by failing to indict, also freed the Negro, 24-year-old Godwin (Buddy) Bush. He had been charged with an attempted assault upon a young white married woman. Wed. 8-6-47

Governor Cherry, in Raleigh, expressed disappointment that no indictment was returned against the seven white men. Action of the grand jury "does not close the case," he said. The Governor added that he would "instruct a Superior Court Judge to convene a court, sit as a committing magistrate, give thorough investigation to this matter, hear all available evidence, and commit those charged for trial in an adjoining county." This he said he could do under authority given him by North Carolina laws.

"Undoubtedly a crime has been committed by those who entered the Jackson jail and one of the members of the mob had confessed to the crime," the Governor said. "The jury should have found a true bill in order that this evidence could have been heard in open court." 8-6-47

The report of the eighteen-man jury came after two days of tense courtroom proceedings. The grand jury had been asked by Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler yesterday to return true bills on each of three counts against the seven men; (1) kidnaping; (2) conspiracy to break and enter a jail with intent to injure or kill Bush, and (3) breaking and entering a jail with intent to injure or kill Bush.

Bush was taken from the Northampton County jail May 23 by armed and masked men, but he was able to escape and hid for three days. Then he surrendered and was removed from the community for safekeeping. Later he returned to attend his father's funeral and has remained without incident.

North Carolina has the South's lowest lynching record. This was the state's first attempted lynching since Aug. 15, 1941. At the time Bush was taken from the Northampton County jail Governor Cherry demanded an immediate investigation. Wed. 8-6-47

"North Carolina will not tolerate lynchings and mob violence," he declared.

Indictments Fail in Lynching Case

30e(1) Columbia Record Columbia, S.C.

WARRENTON, N. C., Sept. 17—(AP)—For the second time within the last six weeks, a North Carolina grany jury today refused to return indictments against white defendants in connection with the attempted lynching of a young Negro.

Announcement of the grand jury's action today—which freed two white men—came immediately after Warren county superior court was reconvened at 9:35 a. m. The 18-man grand jury had reached its decision last night after court had been recessed until today. Wed. 9-17-47

After the announcement, the defendants—Joe Cunningham, assistant theater manager at Rich Square in Northampton county, and Northampton Jailer A. W. Edwards—were called before the bar and Judge W. C. Harris ordered them released.

Solicitor E. R. Tyler said that "I have no other charges against them—not at this time." He did not elaborate.

Carolina Lynch Mob Suspects Freed Governor to Order Case Reopened

P.M. N.Y., N.Y. Wed. 8-6-47

30e(1)

By Associated Press

JACKSON, N. C.

Charges against seven white men accused in a lynching attempt upon a young Negro prisoner were dropped here yesterday when the Northampton County Grand Jury refused to indict them.

Gov. R. Gregg Cherry condemned the action as "a miscarriage of justice." He said he would order the case reopened with a Superior Court Judge sitting as a committing magistrate.

Before a packed courtroom of 350 spectators who had sat tensely during the morning waiting for the report of the 18-man Grand Jury, Judge J. Paul Frizzelle announced to the seven accused white men "you are at liberty to go."

Broad smiles broke upon their faces when the report was announced, and they left the court house immediately.

The Grand Jury at the same time returned a no bill against Godwin (Buddy) Bush, 24-year-old Negro sawmill worker they were accused of abducting from the Northampton County jail early last May 23. Bush had been charged with attempt to assault a pretty, young Rich Square white woman, who later said Bush had not touched her.

Gov. Cherry said:

"I am very much disappointed in the action of the Northampton Grand Jury. . . .

"Undoubtedly a crime had been committed by those who entered the Jackson Jail, and one of the members of the mob had confessed to the crime. The jury should have found a true bill in order that this evidence could have been heard in open court."

"This Grand Jury action does not, however, close the case," he added.

GOV. CHERRY HAS COURAGE

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat 8-16-47

Because the action of a Northampton County (N.C.) grand jury at Jackson in refusing last week to indict seven white mobsters so outrages all sense of decency and justice, Governor R. Gregg Cherry took immediate steps to correct it and to remove this stigma from his State's record. 30e(1)

The would-be lynchers, one of whom has been identified by the intended victim, had kidnapped Godwin (Buddy) Bush from his cell in the Northampton County jail on May 23, only to have Bush escape and later surrender.

That Bush, who was charged with attempted rape, was also freed, is beside the point. The grand jury properly should have returned a true bill in order that all of the evidence in the case could be heard in open court.

Acting under a special lynching act of 1893, Governor Cherry has ordered a Superior Court judge to sit as a committing magistrate and, if the evidence warrants, to certify the seven accused men for trial in an adjoining county.

North Carolina has about the lowest lynching record of any Southern State and the Governor's action indicates that he is anxious to protect it. Sat-8-16-47

How unlike the Greenville, S.C. case in which 28 admitted lynchers were freed! Governor Cherry is certainly to be commended for his courage and, along with thousands of others, we hope that his efforts bear fruit.

Should they fail, what better argument is there for a Federal antilynching law with teeth?

Freedom to Lynch

30e(1)

Courier
Pittsburgh Pa.
Sat 9.27.47
(2nd Trial)

The action last week of the Warren County, N. C., grand jury in freeing two white men of conspiracy charges growing out of the attempted lynching last May of 22-year-old Godwin (Buddy) Bush, was in the worst Dixie tradition.

It was tantamount to giving these two men the green light to carry out any future lynching attempt that may occur to them.

It is clear that the grand jury was not motivated by any considerations of justice or else it would not have freed the jail official who turned the youth over to the mob nor the leader of that mob.

These grand jurymen were simply endorsing the action of the Northampton County grand jury which refused last month to return a true bill against the two accused men and six of their accomplices from Rich Square, N. C.

This action so shocked Governor R. Gregg Cherry that he ordered a second inquiry but now he sadly admits that "There's not much use in taking it anywhere else on the evidence we now have."

Buddy Bush lives today, not because of any protection by officers of the law, but because he was so fleet of foot that he outran the creatures who kidnapped him and were intent on doing him to death.

While the action of these two grand juries is practically a license to lynch, we have a feeling and a hope that the swift action of Governor Cherry in trying to bring the culprits to justice will have a deterrent effect on other mobsters in the future.

Arresting and indicting lynchers tend to discourage this crime.

A few convictions would eliminate it entirely.

Jailer Also Cleared

30e(1) N.C. (2nd Trial)

Jury Refuses to Indict Mob Leader

Pittsburgh Courier, Pa
Sat. 9-27-47

See Editorial, "Freedom to Lynch," page six.

By A. M. RIVERA, Jr.
(Staff Correspondent)

WARRENTON, N. C.—A courtroom jammed with spectators, many of whom had waited more than forty-eight hours, witnessed an all-white jury ignore an alleged confession here last week when they refused to return a "true bill" against acknowledged participants in an attempt to lynch a Negro, May 23.

It was the State's second attempt to indict the white men for the thwarted Negro lynching at Rich Square and State officials admitted that they were stymied but held out the possibility that the case would be reopened in another county if new evidence could be found. 9-27-47

Charges against A. W. Edwards, 60-year-old jailer, of Jackson, arrested on a bench warrant by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, and Joe Cunningham, self-confessed leader of the mob of seven white men, were dismissed by the Warren County Grand Jury after a silence of more than forty-eight hours.

Gov. R. Gregg Cherry said, "The case can never be closed until the persons who committed the offense are brought before a jury for trial." 30e(1)

Governor Cherry and Solicitor E. R. Tyler agreed that it would be useless to reopen the case before another grand jury in another county on the same evidence. Governor Cherry said, "The case will be reopended for continuous investigation and serious effort to bring to justice those who violated the sovereignty of the State."

Charges were sent to the Warren County Grand Jury by Judge Frizzelle after Cunningham and six other white men were cleared Sept. 5 by the Northhampton County Grand Jury. N.C. (2nd Trial)

They were accused of removing Godwin (Buddy) Bush, a rape suspect, from jail with intent to harm and kill. Bush, who broke from the mob and ran to his safety, was freed by the same grand jury.

At a special hearing with Judge Frizzelle sitting as committing magistrate, Jailer Edwards was ordered held for negligence of his duty to a prisoner.

When Solicitor Tyler read the disposition of the Grand Jury to white-haired and portly Judge W. C. Harris of Raleigh, the crowd mumbled their displeasure as they left the segregated courtroom together in little groups on the lawn of the courthouse.

Pistol toting sheriffs and nattily dressed State patrolmen moved prominently about them to quell any demonstration

The weight of the Southern creed had out balanced the ventilation of the facts and nobody seemed surprised at the decision. As expressions of attitudes and points of view evaporated into the fall air, no one seemed cognizant of the fact that the decision came on the same day and almost to the very hour that the Constitution of the United States was signed 160 years ago.

7547

Another N. C. Jury Fails To Indict

Journal and Guide

From Richmond Times-Dispatch

ANOTHER North Carolina grand jury has refused to indict anybody for the attempted lynching of Godwin (Buddy) Bush, who broke away last May from the mob which was taking him to a place of execution. In August, after a grand jury in Northampton County, N. C., where the crime occurred, released all seven men accused of the lynching, and also failed to indict Bush for attempted assault on a white woman, Governor Gregg Cherry announced that he would make another effort. Norfolk, Va.

That effort has just ended in failure. The Governor moved the case to another county (Warren), and brought in another judge. Only two names were presented to this second grand jury—those of Joe Cunningham, who had confessed to the FBI that he was a member of the mob, and Jailer A. W. Edwards, who made little or no effort to protect Bush when the mob came after the Negro. The grand jury found "not a true bill," which means that it professed not to regard the case as sufficiently well-established for the men ever to be tried.

30e(1) N.C. (2nd Trial)

In the notorious lynching trial at Greenville, S. C., last Spring, the grand jury at least returned a true bill, and brought the defendants, mostly taxi-drivers, to trial. They were then acquitted, it is true, despite the fact that 26 of them had made confessions admitting a part in the lynching. Rebecca West showed in the New Yorker for June 14 that, given the legal complications involved, and the fact that none of the defendants took the stand in his own defense, the jury was virtually without any alternative but to acquit everybody. It is not possible to go into the legal involvements at this time, but Miss West concluded, after an exhaustive analysis, that the jury could not have convicted the defendants on the evidence. 10-11-47

Thus the Greenville, S. C., trial jury was not to blame for what happened, and the grand jury there is entitled to all praise. The North Carolina record is considerably worse. When the North Carolina grand juries in Northampton and Warren counties failed to indict anybody, they were far more derelict than the South Carolina petit jury, which failed to convict after hearing evidence from both sides. (A grand jury, of course, hears only the prosecution, and it is supposed to hold for trial anybody against whom there is evidence that should be heard by a trial jury). 10-11-47

Governor Cherry, of North Carolina, has very properly declared that "until the persons who committed this offense are brought before a trial jury, the case can never be closed." Both the Governor and District Solicitor Ernest E. Tyler announced that the matter would remain under continuous investigation. Sat.

When such a thing happens as has just occurred in this North Carolina case of attempted lynching, it makes one wonder concerning the future of southern justice. Legal technicalities and errors entered heavily into both the North Carolina and the South Carolina cases. Rebecca West said in her appraisal of the Greenville trial that the preliminaries "had been conducted in disastrous fashion," that serious errors had been committed before the special prosecutor took over, and that neither he nor the courageous judge could then redeem the situation. The Raleigh **News and Observer**, commenting on the failure of both North Carolina grand juries to return a true bill, declares that in the Northampton hearing the judge "gave six alleged members of the mob the benefit of all the archaic technicalities provided in North Carolina's admittedly lax laws governing criminal procedure."

Inevitably the question arises whether a Federal anti-lynching law would have been effective in obtaining convictions in these two cases. Basically the problem of conviction rests with the jury, and if southern jurors in State courts refuse to indict or to convict persons charged with lynching, they will almost certainly do the same thing in Federal courts.

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2 Men Freed By Grand Jury In Mob Trial

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

No True Bill Found On Indictments; Backs Decision

Thurs. 9-18-47
30e(1) (2nd Trial)

WARRENTON, N. C., Sept. 17.—(AP)—The Warren County Grand Jury today freed two white men of conspiracy charges growing out of the unsuccessful attempt of a masked mob to lynch a 22-year-old Negro in adjoining Northampton County last May.

Joe Cunningham, theater employer of Rich Square, and A. W. Edwards, 60-year-old keeper of the Northampton jail at Jackson, were released after the Grand Jury reported finding "not a true bill" on the indictments against them.

The Grand Jury thereby indorsed the action of the Northampton County Grand Jury last month in refusing to return true bills against Cunningham and six other Rich Square men charged with abducting Godwin (Buddy) Bush, Negro laborer, from the Jackson jail.

Gov. R. Gregg Cherry, who ordered the second inquiry, said in a formal statement that "until the persons who committed this offense are brought before a trial jury the case can never be closed."

Asked if he planned to have the case presented to another Grand Jury, the governor replied: "There's not much use in taking it anywhere else on the evidence we now have."

Bush broke and ran as his captors placed him in a waiting automobile, and escaped into the early morning darkness. He had been accused of attempting to rape a young Rich Square white woman but was exonerated by the same Grand Jury that freed his alleged abductors. Thurs. 9-18-47

The Negro testified before the Warren County Grand Jury in its investigation. So did four FBI agents. Grand Jury testimony is secret in North Carolina, but the FBI agents had announced previously that they had obtained a signed confession from Cunningham, implicating the six other men.

The six were freed by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle Sept. 2 after a hearing he held as a special committing magistrate by instructions of Governor Cherry. At the time, Frizzelle told them he was obliged to release them because Cunningham's statement could not be used against any one but himself.

30e(1)1947

South Carolina

7548

Lynch Jury Acquits All 28 Defendants on Every Count

News and Courier, Charleston, S.C. Thurs. 5-22-47

JUDGE HEARS ARGUMENTS IN TRIAL FOR LYNCHING—Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., (at top in dark robe) listens to arguments by counsel during the trial of 28 white men at Greenville, S. C., for the lynching of Willie Earle, a negro. This picture was made by Rudy Faircloth, Associated Press staff photographer, through a window from a building across the street from the courthouse. Pictures were not permitted to be made inside the court room during the trial. Right: Defense Attorneys Thomas Wofford (left) and John B. Culbertson (right) confer before court convened to hear defense arguments. (Associated Press Photos.)

Verdict Reached After 5 Hours And 15 Minutes

30 S.C.

By JANE NOLAND

GREENVILLE, May 21. (U.P.): The nation's biggest lynch trial in history ended tonight in full acquittal for all 28 defendants charged with the lynching of Willie Earle, negro, last February 16.

It took a jury of nine textile hands, two salesmen and a farmer only five hours and 15 minutes to reach the verdict clearing the defendants on all four counts charging murder, conspiracy and accessory before and after the fact.

The clerk had to read out 98 sections of the complicated indictment but all 98 were "not guilty", and the reading was completed in minutes.

As defendants and their relatives leaped to their feet in a wild celebration, Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., said "Mr. Sheriff, you can release the defendants".

The jury, which got the case at 5:20 p. m., with stern directions to ignore all racial issues, was ready to give its blanket not guilty verdict at 6:35 p. m.

But Judge Martin delayed the tense proceedings another hour and a half by reporting back to court late from a leisurely dinner.

The judge warned the stirring spectators against any demonstration as the "not guilty's" were sounded off in rapid fire order by T. E. Christenberry, the aged clerk.

Defendants Joyous

As the roll-call of acquittal was completed, Carlos Rooseevlt Hurd, squat cab dispatcher named by fellow-defendants as trigger-man in the lynching, jumped on a chair and shouted "justice has been done, I feel the best I ever felt in my life."

The defendants were smiling and crying with joy as their wives and children ran up to embrace them.

Defense Counsel Tom Wofford shouted above the tumult: "I think this a perfect example of proving that the department of justice, Walter Winchell and other people up North should keep their mouth out of the South's business."

Thus ended a 10-day trial that had probably more words written about it than any in recent years. It was a bitter wrangle of lawyers over admissibility of purported statements signed by 26 of the defendants describing in bloody detail the abduction, torture and final killing of Earle on a lonely South Carolina road.

The negro was killed in retaliation for an attack on T. W. Brown, a Greenville cab driver, which later proved fatal. Of the 31 original defendants, 26 were members of Greenville cab companies.

But protests against the lynching weer not entirely stilled by the blanket exoneration of the defendants.

News and Courier

Martin Popper, vice president of the National Lawyers' Guild who sat throughout the trial, stated "the verdict confirms the fact that federal action is essential."

Ashmore Silent

"It was made clear to me," Popper asserted, "that several deputy sheriffs knew that the crime was to take place and either condoned or at the very least did nothing to prevent it."

Judge Martin and Solicitor Sam Watt, the main prosecutor, left the court during the first rush but Solicitor Sam Ashmore, another state attorney, said "I don't comment on jury verdicts."

The trial ended in a whirlwind of action although Judge Martin didn't deliver his charge to the jury until mid-afternoon.

A flurry of excitement was caused when U. G. Fowler, a state witness in the earlier testimony, applied for a peace warrant, asserting he had been beaten by three men who threatened his life. The warrant was refused.

The jury deliberated from 3:20 p. m. until 7, then ordered supper. The judge left the court a few minutes later for an undisclosed dining place.

The jury sounded the buzzer signal from its chamber down the hall from the courtroom at 8:36 and reported the verdict was ready.

A crowd of more than 500 swarmed into the court chamber where a cool breeze was blowing for the first time during the 10 days of the sweltering court sessions. On the occasion of hearing their judgment read, most of the defendants came attired in coats for the first time.

Charleston S.C.

Their women and sleepy, tow-headed children were waiting nervously. The judge could not be found but finally he returned, posted bailiffs throughout the audience to keep down demonstrations and summoned the prisoners from the yellow brick jail down the street.

Then the jorors filed in, hats in hand and ready to go home. Christenberry called the roll of jurors and asked foreman Hugh Anderson if the jury had reached a verdict.

"We have," replied Anderson, a textile mill accountant. By 10:30, it was all over.

Thurs. 5-22-47

Judge Frees 3 in Lynching Trial; Racial Prejudice Issue Barred

New York Times

30e S.C.

Tues. 5.20

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 19—While verdicts of acquittal were directed for three of the thirty-one defendants in the mass lynch-murder trial today, all four counts of the indictment were retained for the jury's consideration, and defense rested without calling any witnesses.

Indications that defense counsel would argue their case before the jury on the issue of racial prejudice were blocked tonight at a conference between the attorneys and the court. During this parley the presiding judge, J. Robert Martin Jr., told them he would not permit anyone to touch upon the subject in summing up.

Thomas Wofford of the defense counsel remarked at the conference that a great deal had been said in the trial about the Negro victim in the lynching, but not enough about the white taxicab driver the Negro allegedly stabbed, and who died of his wounds, after the Negro was slain.

"There is going to be nothing like that said in the presence of the jury," Judge Martin replied, somewhat angrily.

Mr. Wofford answered just as quickly:

"If there isn't it certainly won't be my fault."

Judge Martin looked sternly at the lawyer and said:

"I am not going to allow any racial issues to be injected in this case."

Tues. 5-20-47

The defense attorneys indicated that they would ask the jury for either a murder conviction or an acquittal, and rule out any requests for a compromise verdict on some lesser charge.

30e

Deprived of perorating about the racial issue, it appeared most likely that the defense would concentrate on the issue of Federal Government "meddling" in a local crime, which they developed at length in their cross-examination. Most of the statements of participation by twenty-six of the defendants were taken by FBI agents.

S.C.

To opposing counsel, who will address the jury tomorrow, the most important development was the court's earlier ruling that sufficient evidence supported the conspiracy count, but statements of participation made by twenty-six of the thirty-one original defendants could be applied only against the individual who made such an admission.

The decision appeared to be somewhat to the advantage of the defense, since counsel has consistently attacked the conspiracy charge. It is the one the jury could conceivably compromise on. The court declined to rule, at this time, whether the conspiracy fits the misdemeanor or felony statutes, but, in either case, it would be punishable by imprisonment up to ten years.

New York N.Y.

Under the ruling that individual statements of participation in the crime cannot be binding upon any other co-defendant, the eight statements naming Roosevelt Carlos Hurd as the actual trigger man cannot be considered against him by the jury as a matter of law.

The defense quickly indicated its satisfaction by electing to go to the jury on undisputed testimony against them. The lawyers called no witness to deny the truth of the statements and at no time obtained admissions from prosecution witnesses that any of the defendants had been coerced or intimated into making statements.

As a matter of law the court

ruled that the statements of participation could be applied only against those who had made them. It held that the conspiracy had ended not at the death of the victim but at the moment of arrest of the defendants. Since the statements were made after arrest, the court decided that under the statutes they could not be admissable as to any co-defendants in conspiracy. Times

The prosecution staff was equally satisfied with the court's decision to keep the conspiracy itself in the indictment. The defense attorneys had concentrated their forensic powers on striking out the conspiracy count on the ground that the defendants statements alone did not establish a conspiracy.

The court ruled that the state had proved the corpus delecti of the conspiracy, which is the conspiracy itself, through sufficient testimony and circumstances, exclusive of the alleged statements of the individual defendants to make out prima facie case of conspiracy for the jury. Times

The prosecution was prepared to sum up to the jury on the basis of corrobative proof and the fact that although, as a matter of law, the jury must disregard the defendants' statements in regard to each other they at least "flavored" the conspiracy aspect. 5-21-47

DR. SOCKMAN ASSAILS MASS LYNCH VERDICT

New York, N.Y.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., May 23 (AP)—The Greenville, S. C., lynching verdict is "bad publicity for the United States" which "will hand uncounted candidates to the ranks of communism," Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, pastor of New York City's Christ Methodist Church, said at the annual New York conference of the church today.

Dr. Sockman, who made a five-week tour of Europe and Russia last year, said that the Russian press emphasized lynchings, strikes and OPA trouble in discussing the United States. Sat. 5-24-47

"As a result of the lynching decision," he said, "the Russian press will say lynchings occur and go unpunished in the United States under a democratic form of government, and thus will reason there is no merit in democracy."

The Laymen's Association of the Annual Conference met today and marked its fiftieth anniversary by dissolving to form two groups, the Lay Members of the Annual Conference and the Board of Lay Activities of the Methodist Church. Officials said the move would give full membership to laymen in the annual conference.

In general session the conference raised its goal for the reserve pension plan to $500,000 for this year instead of $435,000. It also was voted that a committee be authorized to begin paying pensions to retired ministers, averaging $576 annually, during the conference year of 1947-48.

Times - Dispatch

Eyes of the World Are on Us

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Richmond, Va.

Small minds are inciting men to violence on a scale that would disrupt our country and this great system of democracy and free enterprise. As a minority and oppressed group we must maintain our fortitude. Let's be great in our passiveness. 30 all (Trial

The editorial commenting on the irregular decision was excellent, but with one notable exception; its title ("A Jury Betrays Southern Justice"). Why do we continue to be hypocritical, evasive and so afraid of facts? We can do much to correct our faults by bringing them to light.

We have a legalized dual system in the South. It applies to justice also. Even at death we are buried in separate cemeteries.

The eyes of the world are upon this great country. Envy makes it natural that our many weak points will be exploited.

STEPHEN D. JONES
Richmond. Mon. 5-26-47

Free 3 in Lynch Trial; Ruling Aids Defense

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

Tues. 5-20-47

30 all ~~Trial Results~~

By Harry Raymond

NEWSMEN surround presidential secretary Charles Ross as he relays medical reports on Mrs. Martha Truman. White House wires were strung to her Greenville, Mo., cottage home as Mr. Truman prepared to stand by while his mother's condition remains serious.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 19.—Three of the 31 white men charged with the lynching of Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro, were freed this morning by Judge J. Robert Martin Jr. Judge Martin granted a defense motion for a directed not guilty verdict in the case of Earl Martin, local business man, Earnest Stokes and Vardry M. Norris, cab drivers, charged with first degree murder, conspiracy and accessory before and after the fact in the slaying.

The defense rested its case without placing a single witness on the stand after a series of other rulings on defense motions wiped out charge of first degree murder and accessory after the fact in the cases of seven of twenty eight remaining defendants.

These rulings coming as the mass lynching trial entered the second week, seriously weakened special state solicitor Sam R. Watt's demand that the men who knifed and shot the Negro on Bramlett Road on Feb. 17 be punished to the full extent of the law.

FURTHER WEAKENED

The State's case was further weakened by Judge Martin's additional ruling that statements made by 26 defendants describing their version of the lynching can be considered by the jury as evidence only against the persons who made them.

Thus, eight statements naming Roosevelt C. Hurd, squat 45-year-old taxi dispatcher, as the man who blew off the side of Earle's head with a shotgun blast are ruled out as testimony against the alleged killer.

Hurd admitted helping to snatch the Negro from the Pickens County jail. He admitted riding in the death car, a Yellow Cab, with the Negro to the execution grounds. But he denied firing the fatal shots.

Judge Martin's decision likewise ruled out statements by defendants naming scar-faced Hendrix Rector, 34-year old cab driver, as the man who mutilated the Negro with a knife. Tues. 5-20-47

NO EVIDENCE

The Negro was taken by a drunken mob from the Pickens County jail where he was lodged on charges of cutting white taxi driver T. W. Brown, who later died.

In freeing Martin, Stokes and Norris, Judge Martin ruled the state had presented no evidence showing the three took part in the conspiracy to murder or the actual murder.

The seven who won court-directed not guilty verdicts on the first degree murder charge are: Woodrow W. Clardy, Samuel D. Stewart, W. D. Oakley, Willie E. Bishop, Howard Thompson, John B. Marchant and James Fowler. They still face the jury, however, on the charge of accessory before the fact, which carries the death penalty, and conspiracy to commit murder, carrying a 10-year penalty.

Twenty-one of the defendants still face charges of first degree murder, accessory before the fact, conspiracy and accessory after the fact, the latter carrying a 10-year penalty.

One of the ironies of the case is the fact that Clardy and Stewart, named by other defendants as ringleaders, were two of the seven who had first degree murder charges dropped. FBI agent Arthur B. Lea testified four occupants of the death car told him Clardy and Stewart rode with them from the jail to the lynching scene.

It has become apparent at this point of the trial that the State's case was weakened by failure of nine FBI agents, assigned to investigate the lynching, to produce corroborating evidence to back up statements of 26 of the defendants. The only corroborating evidence produced by the FBI was testimony on the conspiracy by U. G. "Hog" Fowler, taxe driver who heard other drivers plan the lynching, and a statement by FBI agent Lea, who succeeded in getting all but four of the defendants to reenact their alleged role in the February death ride. (Trial — Results)

Judge Martin recessed the trial until tomorrow morning. All day Tuesday will be taken up with summaries by State and defense counsel. Judge Martin said he will charge the jury Wednesday morning. The jury is expected to get the case around noon Wednesday.

Although all 28 defendants still on trial face death penalty charges—21 for first degree murdre and seven for accessory before the fact—most local observers believe there will be no death penalty convictions. Few believe the Southern white jury will convict a single one on even a conspiracy charge. Tues. 5-20-47

Those progressive white Greenville citizens who had demanded that the State of South Carolina hurl a stern warning to all lynchers by punishing the murderers of Willie Earle, feel that something has already misfired. The trial is not over, of course, but fast-talking defense attorney Thomas A. Wofford and his three slick book-learned legal associates have won the first round of this courtroom battle.

Tell It To Old Grandma

~~Advertiser~~

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Editor, The Advertiser: 30 all

I was a little reluctant to write you, but the truth you told in your editorial on "Unworthy Sons of the South" in Friday issue, May 23, was like fire wrapped up in my bones and I could not hold my peace.

I want to thank you for that courageous article, concise and appropriate. The underprivileged people in the land of the privileged are deeply concerned about the injustice, and other rigid restrictions placed upon us.

This occurrence in Greenville, South Carolina, is a fertile field for "Communism." We need not fear the rapid growth and expansion of Communism if we make democracy real. Montgomery, Ala.

But unless we protect, and safeguard, and give them "equality of opportunity" in a democracy they will be forced to seek refuge in some other atmosphere. The best thing to fight Communism with is democracy in action.

The minority people of the world cannot hear what we say, for what we do. Our actions speak louder than words. Thank you again Mr. Editor, and others for speaking out against the evils of our day. May I conclude by saying there is an invisible hand writing on the wall.

WILLIAM M. SMITH,
Minister A. M. E. Zion Church
Montgomery

White Witness In S. C. Lynch Trial Gets Death Warning

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla
30 all
Sat. 6-7-47

GREENVILLE, S. C. — (ANP) —U. G. "Hog" Fowler, white taxi driver who testified against several of the defendants in the lynch trial concluded here last week, reported to local police that he was beaten and threatened with death by two undisclosed white men Monday night of last week.

Magistrate Bates Aiken, however, persuaded Fowler not to swear out a peace warrant for the arrest of the two men.

Greenville Lynchers Gloat at Acquittal

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

By Harry Raymond

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 22.—Most good citizens of this sunny textile mill city are probing deep into their consciences today for an answer to the insolent travesty on justice which late last night set free a mob of 28 white men who mutilated and lynched Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro, on Bramlett Road three months ago.

Indicted for murder by a precedent-shattering all-white grand jury, the 28 were declared "not guilty" at 10:20 (EST) last night by a shame-covered trial jury.

These questions are being asked:

- By what sense of reasoning did the jury refuse to convict at least the 26 defendants who signed confessions describing their planning and actual commission of the killing?

Fri 5-23-47

- How could an honest jury exonerate Woodrow W. Clardy and Samuel D. Stewart, who refused to confess, but were named as active ringleaders by co-defendants in a reenactment of the crime?
- What can be done to wipe the bloody blot of shame from Greenville's City Seal?

Judge J. Robert Martin Jr. sat glumly in his black robe as the clerk quietly read the verdict. He refused to comment. But he indicated his displeasure when he failed to go through the traditional formality of thanking the jury.

MINORITY FEELS SHAME

An eminent local attorney who refused to enter the case as defense lawyer told this correspondent:

"The majority of the people felt satisfaction with the acquittal. But a number of us, and we are in a minority, feel a profound shame."

Most persons commenting on the trial declined to permit use of their names. But John Bramlett, another local lawyer, asked to be quoted as seeing advancement in the fact that the Grand Jury brought in a murder indictment. He, too, was shocked by the verdict, having expected a mistrial. But he could offer no plan for further legal action against the killers.

New York, N.Y.

Prior to the trial, lasting one week and three days in the stifling atmosphere of the faded cream brick courthouse, the Greenville Christian Ministers Association of 39 members adopted a resolution "deploring the lawlessness exhibited in the recent lynch-murder of Willie Earle."

The resolution declared "emphatic disapproval of this act of infamy as being contrary not only to the principles of Christianity but to the American standards of fairness and justice to all." The resolution added:

"We sincerely hope that those chargeable with this crime may be speedily tried, convicted and sentenced by due process of law."

PREACHER SILENT 5-23-47

Asked what steps the ministers would now propose, Dr. J. H. Visor, pastor of the Northminister Presbyterian Church and president of the association, said he had no comment to make.

Daily Worker

The opinion of many legal observers was summed up by Martin Popper, vice president of the National Lawyers Guild:

"The verdict confirms the fact that federal action is essential. The evidence demands that the Department of Justice institute prosecutions for violations of the civil rights statutes."

Popper disagreed with today's editorial in the **Greenville Piedmont** which said the trial "serves notice that South Carolina and Greenville County have reached a new and better day in which lynchings will no longer be ignored or whitewashed."

The editorial remarked that "cases of this kind are less likely to occur again." It called the verdict "just, according to the law and evidence."

Daily Worker

"The Federal Government must act," Popper said. "Otherwise, instead of deterring lynchers, the verdict may encourage the idea that lynching can be practiced with impunity."

I questioned several of the defendants, among them Roosevelt C. Hurd, squat taxicab dispatcher named by eight co-defendants as the man who blasted the Negro to death with shotgun fire. Hurd was back driving a cab for the Blue Bird Cab Company.

5-23-47 Fri

Hurd was surrounded by admiring cabbies when I sought him out this morning in the taxi office. He smiled broadly and said: "Justice has been done on all sides."

Asked what he meant, the accused triggerman replied: "Willie Earle is dead and we are free." Hurd was named by co-defendants as one of the mob that went upstairs in the Pickens jail to bring out the Negro. He admitted that much in his own statement.

I saw Duran K. Keenan, the man named as bearing the other shotgun at the lynch scene, at the headquarters of the Commercial Cab Co.

New York, N.Y.

"It's the best thing that ever happened in this county," said Keenan as he strutted proudly among a group of fellow drivers. "The n-----r has got to stay in his place."

Hendrix Rector, the cabby named as having cut five deep gashes in Earle's body before the shotgun finished him off, had not returned to work when I sought him at the cab station.

But Earnest Stokes, one of three of the original 31 defendants released last Monday by a directed court verdict, was back in his cab receiving greetings as he drove along the streets. Also back in their cabs are Woodrow W. Clardy and Henry V. Culbertson, named as lynch ringleaders.

Special Solicitor Sam R. Watt, who prosecuted the case, left for his home in Spartansburg failing to suggest new steps to bring the lynchers to justice.

"I did the best I could do," said Watt as he left the courthouse.

Twelve FBI agents, witnesses in the trial, departed for new assignments.

FBI PULLS OUT

A high official told me the reason the FBI men failed to bring in a large body of witnesses to back the confessions was that they were pulled out of the case on orders from Washington before the investigation was completed.

Legal weaknesses of the prosecution—and there were many—were clearly due to insufficient police work.

Fri 5-23-47

There is no doubt that the legal forms of the trial represented an advance in southern jurisprudence. But despite all actions of fairness on the part of some state officers, the trial has definitely shown that southern state action alone is not sufficient to put an end to lynching. Jimcrow stands as a bar to the just punishment of lynchers. Firm federal action in guarding the 14th Amendment can become a weapon in breaking down that bar.

5-23-47

Do We Merit Respect

Atlanta Constitution

Editor Constitution: Collectively we Southerners are ever amazed at the lack of respect shown us by Northerners. I refer now to the verdict rendered by the jury on the Greenville, S. C., lynching trial. The act in itself was bad enough, but was it necessary to make a farce out of the judicial proceedings?

The answer, I think, is the same responsible for most of the South's problems—lack of sufficient education. True, education won't produce intelligence, but it can teach those endowed with an average mentality to think for themselves, and not play follow the leader for the extent of their lives, as was evident in the aforementioned trial.

Atlanta, Ga.

Until such time as we begin to think individually, we have no grounds on which to demand respect, either individually or collectively!

5-25-47

CHARLES B. LANIER

Athens.

Sun 5-25-47

Clark May Take Hand In Carolina Lynching

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

TOPEKA, KAS., May 23.—(AP)—Attorney General Tom Clark said tonight that his office "may go into court in the outrage in South Carolina where only yesterday a jury freed all the admitted participants in a lynching."

In a speech at a banquet meeting of the Kansas Bar Association, Clark said, "so long as I am attorney general and there is any thread of law to stand on, I shall try to see that justice is done to all of our people, black or white."

South Carolina Justice

The News, Birmingham, Ala.

Thirty-one men went on trial last week in Greenville, S. C., charged with the murder of a Negro. But also on trial was the practice of justice in South Carolina and the South. The men were acquitted. The final verdict has not yet been written on whether justice was dispensed. That verdict is being written in the hearts and minds of all Americans.

The men were accused of taking the Negro from the jail where he was held for robbery and assault of a taxicab driver. Most of the men on trial were also taxicab drivers. The Negro was cruelly and foully murdered with knives and guns and clubs. With the Federal Bureau of Investigation interesting itself in the case, the 31 men were indicted. At the trial the prosecution presented confessions from 26 defendants. The judge dismissed the case against three of the men and ruled that the confessions could not be used except against the men making them. Whereupon the defense rested. Not a witness was presented by the defense. After five hours and 15 minutes of deliberation, the jury acquitted the 28 defendants.

Fri. 5-23-47

Such is the bald outline of the trial. But it is by no means all the story. Much of the meat of it is to be found in some of the sidelights—particularly in the efforts to play upon prejudice. Despite court warnings, a defense attorney assailed the FBI agents instrumental in bringing the case to trial. "We get along all right down here," he shouted, "until they start interfering with us from up North." He called upon the jury to return a verdict of not guilty "and show the FBI we don't need their meddling." Another defense attorney said that Willie Earle (the Negro) was dead and he "wished more like him were dead."

Fri 5-23-47

And so in an atmosphere of inflammatory appeals the tired jury of cotton mill workers took the unsworn confessions and retired to deliberate. For five hours they deliberated. What they said is their secret. Why and how they reached the verdicts of acquittal is their business. But apparently there were men of conscience on that jury who could not quickly and easily dismiss the charge of guilt against men alleged to have confessed a crime.

Fri. 5-23-47

Once again, with no punishment of this mob action in prospect, fuel is added to the flame of demand that a federal anti-lynching law be passed. The South Carolina verdicts will increase the agitation for federal anti-lynching action. The South, its public sentiment, its judicial processes, are still on trial.

Behind the Headlines You Never Can Tell About Testimony At A Lynch Trial

30e S.C.

By ALBERT L. HINTON

Journal and Guide Norfolk, Va.

THE testimony didn't seem particularly important at the time especially to a couple of representatives of the Negro press covering the South's largest and most sensational mass murder trial from the vantage point of the courthouse gallery. But then, of course, you never can tell. It was mid-afternoon of the fifth day of the Greenville County (S. C.) General Sessions Court hearing for 31 white men accused as the lynchers of a 24-year-old known epileptic; the little county courtroom was hot—insufferably hot, and the Negro spectators, perched high up in the gallery, were very restless indeed.

And so, under the circumstances, the testimony didn't seem particularly important. The obviously nervous white man on the witness stand was just another State's witness, and a very unwilling one at that. He had been recalled to the stand immediately after court reconvened for the afternoon session because vigorous objections to the nature of his testimony had been raised by the defense at the morning session. Sat. 6-7-47

The presiding judge had duly considered the defense's objections, had looked up the law appertaining thereto, and had decided the evidence was admissable. The witness' name was U. G. Fowler, a driver for Greenville's Checker Cab Company.

In effect, Fowler, who was later badly beaten for his pains, testified that he had seen a group of men — three of whom he identified by name — assembled at the Yellow Cab Company office in the frosty morning hours of last February 17, carefully planning the lynching as they took turns at a bottle of whiskey.

But his testimony did not take on real meaning until he admitted under cross examination, that he had not wanted to appear in court as a witness in the first place, but had done so at the urgent insistence of his boss, one J. C. Johnson, operator of the Checker Cab Company. With this declaration the two representatives of the Negro press suddenly became all attention.

This "J. C. Johnson," they reasoned, MUST be a white man, and if it was true that he had all but forced one of his employees to testify for the State, then it naturally followed that here was ONE white man in Greenville, South Carolina, who was not in sympathy with the lynchers and moreover, was not afraid to stand up and be counted on the side of law and order. Sat. 6-7-47

In short, here WAS a story!

• • • •

We found Mr. Johnson about mid-afternoon on Saturday at his place of business. He was a big man physically, standing well over six feet in heighth, and weighing roughly about 250 pounds. There appeared to be considerable hustle and bustle about his place but he, himself, was completely unruffled. We didn't know exactly what to say to him at first, or whether to say anything at all, under the circumstances.

But there was a touch of real friendliness in his handshake and a merry twinkle in his eye which soon put us at ease. Mr. Johnson's pet peeve turned out to be the Willie Earle lynching and it required only the mere mention of it and the subsequent arrests of a large number of Greenville taxicab drivers. to provoke an outburst from him.

"Personally, I don't care anything about a man's color," he declared with considerable feeling. "To me he is a human being and he has a soul, whether he's white or black."

I had heard this sort of thing before and, was just about prepared, quite frankly, to write it off as just another outburst by another racial opportunist. But J. C. Johnson continued to speak his piece and as he continued to talk, I became more and more convinced of his utter sincerity. Here are some of the facts he revealed:

That the Checker Cab Company was the only one in Greenville whose drivers were not involved in the Willie Earle lynching. Sat. 6-7-47

That, when he learned of the mob murder, he ordered every one of his drivers to report to police headquarters to see if they could be identified among the participants with the provision that if they were, their employment with him was at an immediate end.

That, he further told his drivers if they contributed to a defense fund for the lynchers which he characterized as "a racket," they would be fired forthwith.

• • • •

Furthermore, we found that Mr. Johnson backs up his words with action. As a result of his forthright stand in this matter he now has more business than he can handle, with a complete monopoly on Greenville's colored trade.

Anybody in Greenville will tell you that on Sunday, if you want to go to any church or Sunday school anywhere in the city, or within a one-mile radius of the city limits, all you have to do is call a Checker Cab and it won't cost you a cent! And your race or color makes absolutely no difference!

We saw the Checker Cab Co. call sheet to prove it.

The testimony of U. G. Fowler didn't seem particularly important at the time. But then, of course, you never can tell.

Southern Minister Blasts Lynch Mob Acquittal On Air

Chicago Defender

30e (1) Chicago, Ill

Sat 8-24-47

A Southern Baptist minister Sunday, blasted the acquittal of 29 men involved in the lynching of Willie Earle in Greenville, S. C., over a Coast-to-Coast radio hookup.

The minister, Rev. John Barry, an instructor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas, said "most citizens of the South are ashamed." He spoke on the Sunday afternoon "Church of the Air" roundtable program.

"I am from Greenville where a jury . . . exonerated over 20 men who had lynched a Negro," he said. "The judge, the clergy, the press and most citizens of the South are ashamed."

Explaining the role of the clergy in the face of mob rule, Reverend Barry said, "The church is the custodian of the decencies, the sanities and the sanctities of life in the community."

Lynch Verdict Puts U.S. on the Spot

AN EDITORIAL

30e S.C.

THE "Not Guilty" verdict in the South Carolina trial of 28 lynchers is a crime against America.

The nation's sense of justice has been defied by a Jimcrow system which reaches from the plantation to the highest seat of government.

The verdict, in freeing men who admitted they joined in a lynching, has placed mob murder of Negroes by white men above the due process of law.

The conscience of America cannot rest when a jury ignores or defies all rules of evidence and declares by its actions that Negroes can be lynched without fear of punishment, that simple justice is not to be attained when the higher duty of "keeping the Negro in his place" intervenes.

South Carolina verdicts are not based on evidence, or on the accidental selection of judge and jury. The defense attorneys knew this. They argued not on the facts nor on the law, but on the civil war, on local prejudice, on the ever-present coercion of the mill-owners and planters.

The jury was not trying the defendants—it was seeking to define its relationship to the Jimcrow community. And it voted out of fear.

• • •

The very court where justice was sought for the murder of Willie Earle enforced the Jimcrow segregation which oppresses the millions of Willie Earles.

Judge Martin told the jury to bring back a verdict based on truth. The big truth in South Carolina is that in 1895 there was established the dictatorship of the big property owners.

The big truth thereafter was the Negroes had no rights.

The big truth was that legal and extra-legal terror beat the Negroes back into semi-slavery and distorted democracy in such a way that it gave birth to the Lynch System and this monstrous Greenville verdict.

THE hopes of progressives, North and South, have been dashed by this open condonement of lynch law by a court.

The life of a Negro is assessed to be worth much less than the paper upon which a complaint is written. The door is wide open to violence and disorder.

Where, O where, is James Byrnes' concern for the rights of persons? Byrnes used to go to the air frequently to belabor the state of democracy in Poland and Rumania. Now a court in his native South Carolina challenges the basis of democracy and justice. Will he remain quiet?

• • •

The labor movement and the liberals of America must sense the danger to democratic processes growing out of this verdict.

President Truman and the Department of Justice must be urged to move at once to re-arrest the lynchers and prosecute them under federal law.

There must be protection for the Negroes of South Carolina. A mob is on the loose; the nation is duty bound to protect its citizens from its potential fury.

Congress must be made to stop its lynching bee against labor and protect Americans from being murdered. Now is the time to pass the anti-lynching bill.

The federal government must guarantee that lynchers get what common murderers deserve—the death penalty.

• •

At 10:20 p.m. on May 21 a verdict in the lynching case was issued. But that verdict did not end the case! Progressive America can amend the verdict.

Let Congress have no peace; let President Truman feel the progressive pressure; let the Departmnt of Justice be reminded again and again of its duties under the law.

Bring the lynchers to the bar of justice!

30e(1) 1947

South Carolina

7505

Bostonians Push Passage Of Taft-Ellender-Wagner Measure

Two S. C. Lynch Mob Members Violate Probation, Imprisoned

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

30e(1) S. C.

SPARTANBURG, S. C.—(ANP)—Two ex-convicts of the Greenville lynch mob, which killed Willie Earle last February, were given sentences of six months each by Judge C. C. Wyche of Spartanburg last week after they failed to make a defense against charges of probation violations. Sat. 6-26-47

Tyres Crawford, according to local court officials, had been placed on probation following charges of possessing equipment for a still. Beginning Oct. 13, 1941, he had served a year and a day for illegal distilling. On Oct. 5, 1943. Perry Murrell was found guilty of the theft of $9.19 worth of chocolate bars from a railway freight car, and was put on probation. Sat. 6-26-47

At the hearings last week, P. B. Beachman of the FBI introduced a statement which he said he had received and which showed that both men were present at the time that Earle was lynched. Neither man was represented by attorneys, and neither made any comments.

Judge Wyche revoked the probation sentences of the pair and ordered them to six months in prison. He suggested that they be sent to the federal prison at Tallahassee, Fla.

LYNCH TRIAL

Life 30e(1) S. C.

Sirs:

Out of an emotional state of extreme mortification and shock caused by the infamous acquittal of the 26 men who admitted their guilt in the brutal lynching of Willie Earle, I am writing this letter in praise of your frank and courageous story, "Lynch Trial Makes Southern History" (LIFE, June 2). Chicago, Ill.

The case of Willie Earle has a very special significance to me. I am a Negro, too, though reared up in this world in entirely different circumstances than those that were encountered by the ill-fated Willie.

I am a native of Detroit, Mich. and a former prelaw student at Wayne University before entering the Army. I am now waiting for my discharge in eager anticipation of taking up my future educational endeavors at U.C.L.A. For a while the outside world looked very bright for me, a young Negro seeking a career in political law. Now I'm more determined than ever to become a truly great attorney. I am convinced that politics in the U.S. needs a little "whitewashing." The sun does not shine as brightly now as it did yesterday — before I heard about the miscarriage of justice in the Earle case. Mon. 6-23-47

My sorrow was lightened somewhat by your splendid pictorial and story coverage of the case. This entire base joins me in praise. It was nice to know that there were such men as Martin, Thurmond and Watt fighting for the triumph of justice. Even though it appears that they lost, I feel that their moral victory outweighs their loss. Mon. 6-23-47

CPL. NORMAN HODGES

Lockbourne Army Air Base
Columbus, Ohio

Sirs: 30e(1) S. C.

You are certainly to be commended. It is not hard to imagine such a gross miscarriage of justice taking place under the Hitler regime in Nazi Germany, but for the admitted participants in a lynching to go free in the U.S. seems an unmitigated national disgrace and a reversion to barbarism.

REV. JAMES C. PERKINS

Union Congregational Church
Phoenix, Ariz.

Sirs:

. . . This smirking miscarriage of justice can be attributed to only one thing—a yellow, spineless jury which should be put on trial for contempt of court. . . .

JAMES A. MIDDLETON

Baltimore, Md.

Sirs: Mon. 6-23-47

"The trial did not end in a way to satisfy those who believe that democracy means what it says. . . ."

Hasn't LIFE, along with some millions of individuals, given a new meaning to the word democracy? In Greece it was rule by the Demos, or people, in mob assembly, and any regard for individual rights or feelings was purely coincidental. A classic example of its working was the vote to ostracize—exile—Aristides at the end of an excellent administration. A voter was asked why he voted to exile such a man and replied that he was fed up with hearing him called "The Just." 30e(1) S. C.

H. E. GHOLSON

Clarksville, Tenn.

Charleston S. C., News-Courier
June 19, 1947

Rob't. Quillen

30e(1)

Greenville is a modern, rich and civilized city in South Carolina. It has several big cotton mills, a rather famous co-ed university, and a Christian population.

Sober and honest negroes can always get jobs, and are paid as much as white people for the same work.

Recently much has been written about the trial and acquittal of 28 white men of the city, who were accused of lynching a young negro; but most of the discussion concerned the law and righteousness and made no effort to explain the acquittal.

John Temple Graves probably came closest to the truth when he wrote that "jurors were simply afraid to face living in a community where they had condemned 28 neighbors to die for killing a negro".

Mill workers are a race apart. They are as clannish as Scots. America has never seen a group more loyal to one another. They stick together. Hit one and you hit all.

When people said of a candidate for the senate that he would get the mill vote, they might have added that he would also get the office, as he did. And when nine mill workers were accepted for the jury, many people said: "That jury will never convict."

But weren't most of the accused men taxi drivers? Yes, but many grew up in mill villages; all had friends and some had relatives working in one of the mills. They were part of the clan—not klan.

The lynched negro was in jail, accused of robbing and murdering a middle-aged taxi driver. In recent months, several other taxi drivers had been robbed at the point of a gun or knife by negro passengers. There was a list for revenge.

Several days after the trial in South Carolina a mob in North Carolina took a young negro from jail, but let him escape in the darkness. In that county, the only one in which negroes outnumber whites, several negroes had attacked white women in recent weeks. Again there was lust for revenge.

(Recent propaganda gives the impression that lynchings are common. Actually they have almost ceased. South Carolina has the best record of all Southern states, 159 in 62 years, and in recent years has had none at all. In the whole nation there were three in 1943; two in 1944; one in 1945. These figures are provided by Tuskegee Institute, the famous negro school.)

Lynching is simple murder, if the victim dies. No provocation justifies unlawful retaliation. No land can be civilized while men who feel wronged take private revenge.

But we are dealing with human beings, not theories. The way to stop the vicious circle of crime and criminal revenge is to stop crime. It can be done. And the record indicates that lynching will soon be ended if the job is left to those most concerned.

An FBI man who sat through the Greenville trial said: "That proves the need of a federal law." He was wrong.

It is axiomatic that the more drastic the law, the more juries will refuse to convict. Whoever makes the law, juries must determine the guilt. Will they be more likely to find a verdict of guilty if they resent and hate the law?

Lynch Slayer Is Acquitted

The Informer Houston, Texas 30e

BARNWELL, S. C.—(ANP)—William Craig, white Barnwell farmer who confessed to the slaying of James Walker, Jr., last August 12, was acquitted of murder charges in general sessions court here this week. Sat. 4-15-47

Craig, with seven other white men, trailed Walker a mile home and as the latter stood on his father's front porch, shot him through the heart from the rear, the slayer being concealed partly behind field corn in front of the house. 30e(1)

Walker had arrived half an hour before from Charleston to visit his parents and is reported to have had an argument in the Craig establishment at Elko before reaching the house. Sat. 4-15-47

Termed a lynching, Craig was at first freed by a coroner's jury ruling that although he had followed the dead man home and shot him through the back, he acted in "self defense." A grand jury, however, indicted the slayer.

"Southern Judicial Inadequacy And Impotency"

30e(1)

Journal and Guide

By Thomas Lomax Hunter

Norfolk, Va. Sat. 6-7-47

THE adequittal by a South Carolina jury of the 31 admitted murderers of young Willie Earle, who tortured and slew hm brutally, seems to this column a final and conclusive argument for Federal interference in such matters. Georgia has never arrested one of the mob of murderers who slew four innocent Negroes last Summer.

This column has always opposed all suggestions for a Federal anti-lynch law. In the face of these two farcical exhibitions of Southern judicial inadequacy and impotence, it can no longer sustain this position. Virginia has an excellent anti-lynch law as Congress could make and we have virtually stamped out lynching in this State.

We must admit that the fair trial of a white mob charged with the lynching of a Negro is a thing not to be thought of. Southern justice stands shamed in the eyes of the world.

The London Daily Express commenting on this farce, recently enacted at Greenville, S. C., says: "Trial by fury remains the unwritten law of America's South."

Under the lines such as "Death Men Go Free—And Hold Carnival," London papers recounted the trial's whole history which, the Daily Mail said, revived America's No. 1 problem—that of the attitude of the white to the Negro populations.

Most reports included the verdict at Sylvania, Ga., where Jimmie Brown, a 25-year-old Negro, was convicted of raping a white woman and sentenced to death after the jury debated only three minutes.

IT IS the Southern white man and his justice who stands condemned in the eyes of the world by this travesty on his justice. It is he who organizes the courts, selects the judges and sits upon the juries. He is wholly responsible for the frightful spectacle we have just witnessed at Greenville, S. C. The trial and the lynching are of equal respectability.

I have often observed that trial by jury even when the race problem is not an issue, has become archaic and inept. Its general results is the escape of guilty men. Its members are chosen after a careful examination to prove their ignorance of the matter which they are to determine.

We ask an opinion of those men who have sworn that they have no opinion on the most discussed matter in their community. After the jury has been picked with careful regard to its ignorance, it hears the evidence touching the guilt or innocence of the accused. Duly befuddled and confused, it is now instructed by the judge (I am speaking of trials in our State nisi prius courts).

It now retires to its jury room to deliberate upon the matter, its foreman bearing in his hand a sheaf of papers in which the indefinable thing, "reasonable doubt" is defined in every possible permutation of phraseology, and great stress laid upon the presumption of the prisoners innocence. Solemly abjured that they must resolve every doubt in favor of the accused, there is little to wonder at the large escape of scoundrelism. Sat. 6-7-47

IF TO this mumbo jumbo you add the fact that every juryman upon the bench takes his seat intensely sensible of bias and prejudice, as in the case of the Greenville jury, the result is certain. The men on the Greenville jury knew what was expected of them by the mob in the courthouse.

Trial by jury, while still an outmoded and archiac piece of judicial machinery, operates much more efficiently in our Federal courts. In these latter courts the judge plays an important part and gives judicial guidance to the poor befuddled no-opinion creatures who fill the jury box. The time has certainly come when our trial-by-jury system, while it is snow in the hat of what we call "crimilawyers," should be abolished and abated and swept into the dust bin as mere worthless rubbish. We have excellent judges. Why not let them determine the whole matter? Justice cannot be extracted from befuddled ignorance.

RALPH McGILL

The ~~Atlanta~~ Constitutio

Miss West Writes A Powerful Piece

Pub. Atlanta Ga. 30e(1) S.C.

Tuesday 7-1-47

A number of years ago, when I was a younger, eager-beaver reporter, as I profoundly hope I am now an older but still eager-beaver newspaperman, I was called to the city desk of the Banner in Nashville.

"This English woman writer is down in the yards," said Mr. J. Stahlman, the city editor. "She is with Otto Kahn, patron of the arts and a party of other guests. Go interview them."

I was an eager-beaver reader of books even then, and Miss West was high on my list, so I hied me down to the yards and after trudging across tracks and dodging switch engines, at last found the car, and was admitted. Constitution 7-1-47-Tues.

It was the first private car I had ever seen, and I recall I admired it extravagantly. Mr. Kahn, now a resident in eternity for some years, had a number of guests, including a young Russian prince who, somehow, had escaped the revolution.

I interviewed Mr. Kahn about the "situation." The "situation" is always good for an interview. Also, the city editor would expect me to ask him about the South. So I did. All I recall of Mr. Kahn's interview is that he was optimistic and said, in the words of the late Brisbane, never to sell America short. The South, I seem to recall, had possibilities. Great possibilities. Atlanta, Ga.

Miss West

I then turned, with some eagerness, to Miss West. She was most gracious, as I expected her to be. I was enchanted by her, and still am.

She told me that some day she hoped, really, to visit the South. She was then a lady in her late thirties, as I recall, and so I was surprised when, following her subject, she said that her father had visited the South at the close of the Civil War.

When the war ended he had traveled through the United States, intent on visiting the South, the armies of which he had learned to admire. He traveled all the way to New Orleans and wrote back immensely interesting letters which the family still possess. He was Charles Fairfield. Miss West took her pen name from one of Ibsen's plays in which she played before turning from the footlights to the typewriter.

Memory

I recall one more incident. Mr. Kahn was in the city at the invitation of Peabody College which was very hopeful Mr. Kahn would make one of those generous bequests for which he was noted.

A small minority of the ladies' auxiliary had not wanted to include Miss West in the invitation to the reception that evening. A bit of petty gossip from England had washed up on our shores and this minority was being very sternly smug about it and relented, I was told, only out of Christian charity.

As often is the case, the leader of this minority was with her friends, hovering about, fawning upon Miss West when she could, because Miss West was the chief lion of the evening, as it turned out, a great many persons who would not otherwise have come at all, coming with the hope of meeting her. They would not let her be.

I recall the campus seethed for days afterward with the indignation of these smug ladies. They finally heard Miss West say: "Otto, when can we leave. I cannot more endure these stuffy women."

It was true, so very true, and great was the mirth of the great majority of those who dwelt in or near the campus.

Lynching

All of that is in my memory of the past. Miss West has just had published in the July 14 issue of the New Yorker magazine, one of the finest pieces of writing she, or anyone else, has ever done on a social subject. She covered the Greenville, S. C., lynching case in which the defendants previously had made statements implicating themselves. It is a fair story, but a very profound one, in addition to being a piece of literature. I trust a great many persons will read it.

Disturbing

One of the most disturbing phases of our thinking here in the South is the manner in which our guilt complex causes us to try to rationalize and defend murder.

There are those who whine and say: "Why don't the critics write about how awful is the crime committed by those who get lynched instead of demanding the law be allowed to act?"

Well, of course, we do. Besides the law, which those of us who write on the subject try to uphold, has done that for us. It provides punishment of death and life, depending upon the jury. That seems comment, an estimate, as harsh as anyone could ask.

Or, they may protest, saying: "Why don't you protest the crimes up North?"

One does. But that is not the point. We are confronted with our own crimes and, as in all postwar periods, they are on the increase. And, it must be noted, it is white men who commit 70 percent of them. And, let it be noted also that most of those apprehended have criminal records. I think, as I long have though, that our processes of treating criminal cases must be revised. Let the death penalty and the electric chair remain. But, let us remember, and face the fact, that most of the crime of today which leads to the electric chair, began yesterday in the high chairs of the homes.

We cannot for a moment condone lynching or murder. We cannot excuse violence and not do great and lasting damage to our personal moral values and to the values of our whole program of law, upon which our civilization is based. They are, when they occur, our crimes and our responsibility.

That, in brief, is what Miss West says in her brilliant and scalding, yet enormously understanding, article about the failure of morality at Greenville.

7506

Negro Newsmen Denounce 'Dixie Justice'; Appeal To Truman

30e(1), S.C, Chicago, Ill. Defender

Sat. 5-31-47

By EMORY O. JACKSON

ATLANTA, Ga. — In an emergency session here Friday, the board of directors of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, in telegrams to President Truman, Attorney General Clark, Republican and Democratic party leaders said that acquittal of 28 Greenville (S.C.) lynchers by an all-white jury represents "the most contemptuous disregard for moral law and human decency in modern history of our record."

The telegram to the President said that publishers "feel it your duty to. recommend immediate passage of anti-lynch legislation."

It added that "the country needs and must have a restoration of confidence in the willingness and ability of the state to give equal and adequate protection to all of its citizens, regardless of race or color."

Messages with similar content were sent to Sen. Arthur Vandenburg, president pro-tem of the Senate; Sen. Robert H. Taft, Congressman Joe Martin and Attorney General Tom C. Clark. Sat. 5-31-47

Telegrams carried the signature of Frank L. Stanley, NNPA president and publisher of the Louisville (Ky.) Defender. Others voting unanimously to send the message were: Howard L. Murphy, secretary-treasurer of the Afro-American (Baltimore, Md.), Newspapers; W. O. Walker, publisher of the Cleveland (Ohio) Call-Post; J. Orvell Mitchell of the St. Louis (Mo.) Argus; Thomas W. Young, Norfolk (Va.) Journal and Guide; C. A. Scott, editor, Atlanta Daily World; J. D. Davis, Kansas City Call, and Henry O. Jackson, editor, Birmingham World. The text of the telegram to President Truman:

"Acquittal of 28 Greenville lynchers by a jury of their peers represents a most contemptuous disregard for moral consciousness and basic social laws in the recent history of our nation. Can the theory of democracy be sold to a waiting world on the basis of such a record? The country needs and must have a restoration of confidence in the willingness and ability of the state to give equal and adequate protection to all its citizens, regardless of race or color. We feel it your duty to recommend to Congress immediate passage of anti-lynch legislation."

30e(1) S.C.

Demand Clark Act

Text of telegram to Mr. Clark:

"It is regretable that the excellent work of your office and of the FBI has resulted only in the acquittal of Greenville lynchers by a jury of their peers which represents the most flagrant contempt for law, moral consciousness and human decency in modern history of our country. Can the theory of democracy be sold to a waiting world on the basis of such a record? Is recognition of basic concepts of our democracy to be sacrificed to sectional bigotry and absence of respect for human life? This instance more than ever indicates urgent necessity for recourse to federal anti-lynching legislation. The entire nation needs and expects a restoration of its faith in the willingness of the state to protect its citizens." Sat. 5-31-47

Point Out World Angle

The text of the telegram to Senators Taft and Vandenburg and Speaker Martin:

"The acquittal of 28 Greenville lynchers by a jury of their peers is the most contemptuous disregard for moral law and human decency in modern history of our nation. Can the theory of democracy be sold to a waiting world on the basis of such a record? It indicates that immediate passage of federal anti-lynch legislation is imperative if there is to be any remaining vestige of confidence on the part of the public for the willingness and ability of the state to offer equal and adequate protection to its citizens."

Dustin' off the NEWS

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

By LUCIUS C. HARPER

WE GET MORE DATA FOR AN ANTI-LYNCH BILL

30e(1) S.C.
Sat. 5-31-47

Sat. 5-31-47
Lucius Harper

THE most outrageous debauchery against justice occurred in Greenville, S. C., just recently when a "criminal jury" brought in a verdict freeing 28 men who lynched Willie Earle last February. I use the words "criminal jury" advisedly. Even the judge who impanelled it turned his back in disgust at the verdict, and refused to thank its members for serving. They had honored the rabble, and invoked the law of the jungle.

The situation in Greenville forcibly illustrates the truth of the statement that crime is a disease, the result in a large measure of economic conditions, but due more perhaps to social causes. Unfortunately, both social and economic conditions in South Carolina are conducive to the propagation of crime. Punishment alone will not prevent crime in South Carolina, so long as the economic and social causes remain as they are. In some cases punishment tends to increase crime, as is evident by the verdict of these Greenville jurors, who actually endorsed the acts of criminals—their fellow townsmen—when due process of law was applied to punish them.

30e(1) S.C.

The South may be called, from its long records of injustice to the black man in particular, the nursery of crimes in America. The migratory criminal population of the United States may be traced from the southern states to every part of the country. Low standards of civic and legal obligations toward the Negroes promote the most appalling and aggravated forms of crimes in the South.

Sat. 5-31-47

IN almost every community the Negro is looked upon not as a citizen, but a sort of social peril or leper who must be treated as a sub-human with no rights that a white man is bound to respect; shades of old Justice Roger B. Taney's decision in the Dred Scott case. Every law enacted and every civic promotion in this notorious pattern and attitude of intolerance steadily increases disrespect for the Negro, and finally removes him entirely from the protecting arm of the South's judicial system.

Even an honest and upright judge and a stern prosecutor, as was evidenced in the Greenville case, cannot cope, through appeals to law and order, with a people who have developed over the years a spirit of intolerance and lawlessness, coupled with a persistent desire to be essentially sectional and defiantly partisan. Any respectable sources that attempt to aid them to betterment are labelled "meddlers" in their local affairs; they wish to be let alone in their corrupt practices and flagrant vices, even though the disease they spread is unwholesome and contagious. What Lascussagne said many years ago could be fittingly applied to the present situation in Carolina:

"The social environment is the cultural medium of criminality; the criminal is the microbe—an element that becomes important only when it finds a medium which will cause it to ferment. Every society has the criminals it DESERVES." The society of Greenville certainly deserves what it has produced: lynchers, now with legal endorsement. The 28 freed lynchers have been given cause to ferment; we shall most assuredly hear from them at a later date, collective or individually.

Willie Earle may not have died in vain. He may be the "father" of a federal anti-lynching bill. Here are 28 living "Greenville witnesses" to support the demand that such national legislation is badly needed. By their acts they have shown the utter fallacy of the old argument of "state's rights" being able to handle such a situation. The irony of the matter is that these men lynched a citizen and were freed a few miles from the home of slaveholding John Calhoun, apostle of "state's rights" in the earlier days of the republic. What a smear on his statesmanship!

Sat. 5-31-47

A FEDERAL law may not absolutely stop, lynchings in the South, but it will, at least, give notice to those who engage in it that they will have sterner forces to combat after engaging in such lawlessness. This writer recalls when Uncle Sam stepped in the picture of lynching of Will Johnson, a Negro, at Chattanooga, Tenn., around the year 1908. Johnson was held in jail there on the charge of killing a white man. He was under the care of a sheriff named Shippey. After conviction, Johnson's colored attorney, Mr. Parden, appealed his case to the United States Supreme Court. During the appeal, Johnson was seized in the jail by a mob, taken to a nearby telephone pole and lynched. Attorney Parden cited Sheriff Shippey for contempt in the federal court; permitting a prisoner in his charge, under government jurisdiction, to be harmed. Shippey was tried in federal court, convicted and sentenced to serve ninety days in jail. Being convicted of a crime, he was naturally relieved of his office as sheriff. We haven't heard of any lynchings in Chattanooga since that date . . . way back in 1908.

30e(1)1947

South Carolina

7507

Jury Reaches Agreement In Greenville Lynch Trial

Times
New York, N.Y.

30e(1)

By The Associated Press.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 21—The jury trying twenty-eight white men for the lynch murder of a South Carolina Negro sent word to Circuit Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., at 8:35 P. M. (EST), that it had "reached agreement."

There was no indication as to the nature of the agreement. Judge Martin had left the court house for supper, and was summoned at home. The word of agreement came after 5 hours and 15 minutes of deliberation.

Thur. 5-22-47

Racial Angle Barred

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to The New York Times.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 21—With instruction from the trial judge to disregard "any so-called racial issue," a Southern jury of twelve white men began deliberations at 3:20 EST, this afternoon in the case of twenty-eight white neighbors accused of lynching a Negro.

"You, as jurors, in a court of justice, have no friends to reward nor any enemies to punish," the court declared in a fifty-minute charge. "Your purpose and my purpose here today is to see that a verdict is rendered in this case that speaks the truth."

The jurors also were told that they were not to consider as a defense for justification or mitigation of the lynching that the victim "may or may not have been guilty", of the crime of stabbing a white taxi driver who was a friend of the accused. The taxi driver died of his wounds five hours after the slaying.

The judge told the jurors they could bring in verdicts for each or all of the defendants on any of the four counts charged against them in the indictment, except that on the conspiracy count the law would require that a guilty verdict, if any, must be against at least two of the defendants.

30e(1) S.C.

The most significant moment in the charge came when the judge defined the statutory provisions for punishment, citing death in the electric chair as the penalty for murdre, with life imprisonment if there is a recommendation for mercy, and adding: "On the conspiracy count the question of punishment is largely in the discretion of the court and by statutory provisions. It is not to exceed a term of ten years in prison."

Throughout the trial defense counsel have concentrated their attack on the conspiracy count as it is conceivably the one the jury could compromise on. Judge J. Robert Martin Jr., spent two days in legal research before overruling defense objections and ruling that there was sufficient evidence to warrant retaining the conspiracy count for the jury's consideration.

Besides murder and conspiracy the counts in the indictment charge accessory before the fact, which carries the same penalty as murder, and accessory after the fact, which carries the same penalty provisions as conspiracy.

All of the defendants stand charged with conspiracy, twenty-one with murder, twenty-seven with accessory before the fact, and twenty with accessory after the fact, as a result of the Court's rulings on defense motions at the conclusion of the taking of testimony.

Times
New York, N.Y.

Witness Reported Beaten

It was reported here today that U. G. Fowler, a taxi driver who provided the state's principal independent corroborative proof by placing three of the defendants in a pre-dawn gathering at which an unidentified voice said "let's go get the nigger," was beaten by another taxi driver two nights ago.

The principal factor in the case is the alleged statements of twenty-six of the defendants admitting their part in the lynching and naming a co-defendant, Roosevelt Carlos Hurd, 42-year-old taxicab driver, as the man who killed the victim with three blasts of a shotgun.

In addition to the statements read to the jury, the prosecution conducted jointly by Greenville County Solicitor, Robert T. Ashmore, and Spartanburg Solicitor, Sam R. Watt, introduced corroborative testimony of Fowler and several others, one a tourist camp owner who picked up three of the accused on the morning of the lynching after their car had broken down.

Times

The court ruled at that time that the twenty-six statements of participation could be considered by the jury only against the individual who had made them and not against any of the co-defendants.

"Suspicion" Not Sufficient

In his charge Judge Martin told the jurors that "a suspicion of guilt, however strong, is not sufficient."

5-22-47

"A court of law recognizes no color, no creed," Judge Martin said. "Therefore, gentlemen, I instruct you, that under your oaths as jurors you are not to allow any so-called racial issue to enter into your deliberations in this case in any respect.

An important part of the charge in relation to the defense attack on the conspiracy count was the declaration to the jurors that "it is not necessary that the agreement be a formal one, it is sufficient if the minds of the parties meet understandingly, each conspirator need not join in the agreement at the same time." The court added that when the conspiracy is established "the acts of one are the acts of all."

Thur. 5-22-47

THE PASSING THRONG
BY ATTICUS MULLIN

South Carolina Scores

Advertiser 30e(1)

I see where a jury has found a lot of people innocent of the killing of a Negro in South Carolina. The trial was fairly conducted and this writer kept up with the evidence as best we could with the newspaper shortage like it is.

Washington sent down a lot of men in an attempt to convict these men for lynching a murderer. It may be that some of the men were guilty. At least the Negro was lynched. But it goes to show that a jury in the South does not propose to be dominated by a lot of so-called New Dealers from Washington.

Montgomery, Ala.

South Carolina can still be numbered among the original Southern States.

Th 5-23-47

Jury Acquits All 28 Men In Lynching

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.
30e(1)

Thur. 5-22-47

South Carolina Jury Returns 98 'Not Guilty' Findings; Judge Makes No Comment

(Trial—Results)

From Wire Dispatches.

Greenville, S. C. May 21.—All 28 defendants were acquitted on all counts by a Greenville County jury here tonight of charges of lynching a South Carolina Negro.

In 98 separate verdicts, read in a jam-packed courtroom the Greenville County jury acquitted 21 defendants of murder, in the lynch-slaying of Negro Willie Earle last February 17.

The jury also freed all 28 defendants of charges of conspiracy to commit murder and of accessory before the fact.

The defendants were mobbed by delighted friends and relatives when Judge J. Robert Martin ordered them released. The judge made no comment on the verdicts.

Wives of 11 Present.

Wives of 11 defendants were present when the acquittals were read, and one of them, Mrs. Howard Thompson, sobbed quietly on her husband's shoulder. When the clerk concluded reading the verdicts, Judge Martin said: "Mr. Sheriff, you will release the defendants at bar from custody."

The court ordered 14 sheriff's deputies to take their places among the crowd of spectators and warned that any demonstration would bring arrest for contempt of court.

The jury concluded its deliberations at 8:35 p.m., but was unable to report until Judge Martin returned to the Courthouse after going to his home for dinner.

Few Negroes Stay for Verdict.

The word of agreement came after 5 hours and 15 minutes of deliberation.

When Judge Martin finally arrived at 10 p.m., the stuffy courtroom was jammed and spectators stood around three walls. In the gallery, however, scarcely a dozen Negroes remained to hear the verdict.

The jury entered the courtroom at 10:21 p.m. a few moments after Martin had summoned the defendants.

Judge Martin announced the verdicts would be received with doors closed until all were read.

The judge's first act on returning to the courtroom was to order the defendants brought from the yellow brick jail down the street.

Defendants Cry With Joy.

He then ordered all spectators removed from behind the rail which confines the defendants in their detention dock.

The defendants began to file into the courtroom at 10:15 p.m.

For the first time during the trial, most of the defendants wore their coats. Bailiffs called for the overflow crowd to clear the hall outside the courtroom so the jury could pass into the chamber.

As the roll call of acquittal was completed, Carlos Roosevelt Hurd, cab dispatcher named by fellow-defendants as trigger-man in the lynching, jumped on a chair and shouted, "Justice has been done—I feel the best I ever felt in my life."

The defendants were smiling and crying with joy as their wives and children ran up to embrace them.

Marked by Better Wrangle.

Defense counsel, Tom Wofford shouted above the tumult: "I think this a perfect example of proving that the Department of Justice, Walter Winchell, and other people up North should keep their mouth out of the South's business."

Thus ended a 10-day trial that had probably more words written about it than any in recent years. It was a bitter wrangle of lawyers over admissibility of purported statements signed by 26 of the defendants describing in bloody detail the abduction, torture, and final killing of Earle on a lonely South Carolina road.

Earle was killed in retaliation for an attack on T. W. Brown, a Greenville cabdriver whot later died.

Protests against the lynching were not entirely stilled by the blanket exoneration of the defendants.

Thur. 5-22-47

Says U. S. Action Essential.

Martin Popper, vice-president of the National Lawyers Guild, who sat throughout the trial, stated, "The verdict confirms the fact that federal action is essential."

"It was made clear to me," Popper asserted, "that several deputy sheriffs knew that the crime was to take place and either condoned or at the very least did nothing to prevent it."

Judge Martin and Solicitor Sam Watt, the main prosecutor, left the court immediately after the verdicts were read, but Solicitor Sam Ashmore, another State attorney, said, "I don't comment on jury verdicts."

30a

In his charge to the jury before it began deliberations, Martin delivered an exhaustive explanation of the charges, the penalties, and the points of law involved.

Courier-Journal

Defendants Look Bored.

The defendants, packed shoulder to shoulder in the detention

7507

section of the courtroom, looked bored as the long charge was read—except for Hurd. He frequently ran his hand through his stiff, black hair.

Before being led off to the yellow jail down the street to await the summons to hear the verdicts, the defendants were allowed brief visits with their wives and children.

Reading his charge slowly before an audience that included 100 Negroes in the gallery, Judge Martin emphasized that the jury must disregard the racial issue.

He also stressed that the jury's

Associated Press Wirephoto.

Mrs. T. W. Brown, widow of the taxi driver whose slaying led to the lynching of Willie Earle, is shown as she left the Courthouse at Greenville, S. C., yesterday during the lynching trial.

decision was in no way to be swayed by whether the lynch victim had been guilty of any crime.

Explains the Charges.

"A court of law recognizes no color, no creed; therefore, gentlemen, I instruct you that under your oaths as jurors you are not to allow any so-called racial issue to enter into your deliberations in this case in any respect," Judge Martin read. ✓

Before the case went to the jury, U. G. "Hog" Fowler, a State witness who had testified as to the alleged plotting in the Greenville Yellow Cab office the night before the lynching, applied to Magistrate Bates Aiken for a peace warrant. He asserted that three men had beaten him up Monday night and threatened his life. The warrant was not granted. Thurs. 5-22-47

Witness Says He Heard Plotting To Get Negro From Carolina Jail

Times, New York, N.Y.

(30 ct) S.C. (T.M.)

Sat. 5-17-47

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to The New York Times.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 16—The prosecution played its legal trump at the lynch-murder trial here today by disclosing vital independent corroborative proof that created a furor in the courtroom.

In a surprise move, the state put forth the legal capstone of the people's case by drawing from the defendants' own friends testimony placing members of the murder-mob in a pre-dawn gathering at which an unidentified voice said, "Let's go get the nigger."

The prosecution's maneuver literally brought defense attorneys to their feet, shouting protests. They said they were confronted with a "legal ghost" whom they could not cross-examine. The presiding judge spent the better part of four hours reading citations on the juridical problem while the jury was excused three times.

The prosecution also introduced an item of physical evidence that carried the additional irony of having been obtained from a defendant himself at the request of a state constable who first advised the accused to "think it over" before acting.

The item was a wooden forepart of a shotgun that had been hidden in a chimney flue about 300 feet from the court building. The state indicated its belief that it was part of a weapon that was described in the defendants' own statements as having been broken during a gang assault on Willie Earle just before he was slain.

The prosecution also put on the stand the operator of a tourist's auto camp, a short distance from the lynching scene, whose testi-

mony identified three of the defendants as having come to his home on the morning of the crime to request a "lift" back to Greenville, as their car had broken down. The defendants' own statements had described this incident.

An important prop of the state's

tor, who has been named in defendants' statements as the man who mutilated Earle with a knife, had made his own statement he was asked by Mr. Ashmore to surrender the part of the shotgun that was broken off in the beating of the victim.

Mr. Ashmore said that he asked Rector to "take a little time to think it over" because he would "appreciate" getting the object. Frank Reid, deputy Sheriff, said the next day he took Rector to the taxi stand behind the court building and that Rector went inside alone and soon returned with the wooden forearm. He said Rector told him he got it from the chimney flue. Sat. 5-17-47

Sam R. Watt, solicitor of nearby Spartanburg, and co-prosecuting attorney, completed the reading to the jury of the twenty-six statements allegedy made by the defendants and the trial was adjourned until tomorrow.

case appeared to be in jeopardy when defense attorneys attacked the admissibility of the corroborative proof by declaring that the conspiracy count in the lynching could not be proved on the defendants' statements alone. S.C.

"That's a grave question in my mind, too," remarked the judge, T. Robert Martin Jr. 30 (T.M.)

Assembling of Mob Described

The principal witness of the day was U. G. Fowler, a taxi driver, who admitted under cross-examination that he was known in town as "Hog," but denied the defense suggestion that he held the appella-

tion "because you're always meddling in somebody's business."

Fowler said that on the morning of the lynching he saw three of the defendants, Hendrix Rector, Woodrow Wilson Clardy and Paul Griggs, drinking whiskey from a bottle "with a lot of others" in a taxicab depot office. He said he stood outside under a shed about twenty feet away and heard an unidentified voice say:

"Meet at the river—going to Pickens County—let's go get the nigger." Times

Of the thirty-one defendants on trial, all but three are taxi drivers. Twenty-six of them allegedly made statements, which have been read to the jury, describing how they assembled in the early morning at a taxi depot, drank whiskey they all "chipped in" to buy, and went to neighboring Pickens County, where they forcibly took Earle from the jail house to a near-by country road and killed him with a shotgun.

Defense attorneys insisted that Fowler's testimony could not be admitted unless a conspiracy could be proved. They argued that the defendants' statements alone did not establish the conspiracy.

Testimony Is Admitted

Judge Martin ruled that Fowler's testimony was "not in the nature of a confession" and therefore was admissible against the defendants. New York, N.Y.

Benjamin A. Bolt, defense attorney, replied that that was his point, that it was not a confession or a statement, "but just a voice this man heard and we have no privilege of questioning that unknown voice."

Robert T. Ashmore, Greenville County solicitor, countered that the defense did not have to have the man who spoke but could put one of the defendants on the stand to deny the testimony.

Thomas Wofford, defense attorney, cross-examined Fowler for fifteen minutes and failed to shake his story. Mr. Wofford asked the witness why he had not reported the plan to "get the nigger" to police.

"I didn't want to have anything to do with it," Fowler replied.

Roy Stansell, the tourist auto camp operator, told of giving a "lift" to three of the defendants on the morning of the crime. He identified the three as Walter Oakley, Sam Stewart and Howard Thompson.

V. L. Ashmore, state constable, testified that after Hendrix Rec-

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A Test of Southern Justice

Times-Dispatch

THE State of South Carolina deserves unrestrained praise for the manner in which it is proceeding at Greenville against the 31 white defendants charged with murder in connection with the lynching of WILLIE EARLE, Negro. The detached, impartial manner in which 37-

year-old JUDGE J. ROBERT MARTIN, JR., is presiding has elicited high commendation from all observers, and the determination and ingenuity with which the authorities rounded up the 31 defendants immediately after the crime set an example for the whole South. It was in grim contrast to the utter inability of the Georgia authorities even to arrest any suspects in the quadruple lynching there last Summer. Richmond, Va.

This Greenville affair is by far the biggest lynching trial in the nation's history, and it is being watched with especial interest for that reason. The crime of lynching has been dying out steadily, thanks to such alert enforcement of the law as is being evidenced in South Carolina, and thanks also to the processes of education, which have brought about a tremendous change for the better in the attitude of the average white Southerner on this matter. Fri 5-16-47

Of the 31 defendants at Greenville, 28 are taxi drivers, and one other is described as "a young Greenville social leader, whose account indicated that he considers he went along as a kibitzer." There have been no fewer than 26 confessions, according to the prosecution. These were secured with the aid of the FBI, but the FBI's role in the case ended at that point, and it is now up to the local and State authorities to prosecute the case and to secure convictions.

The lynching grew out of the stabbing of a white taxi driver last February. WILLIE EARLE, the accused Negro, was lodged in jail, and when the taxi driver died, a mob composed mainly of other taxi drivers went to the jail, demanded the prisoner, mutilated him with a knife and then shot him to death. The prosecution claims to know who fired the shotgun blast which killed EARLE.

GOVERNOR THURMOND, of South Carolina, spurred the prosecution to aggressive action in the case, and arranged for the State solicitor to assist the local authorities. This was done under the terms of legislation patterned after the Virginia antilynching law. All members of the mob were indicted on murder charges and conspiracy to commit murder. Richmond, Va.

If the confessions are bona fide, the jurors would seem bound to find most of the defendants guilty of participation in the crime. Yet it must be remembered that the jury is composed of neighbors, perhaps friends, of the accused, and that this case would be far more extraordinary than it is already if any substantial number of defendants should receive the death penalty or prison sentences. Certainly that is what they should get, but the question is whether they will. At all events, South Carolina's judicial processes have stood the test of this case admirably so far. The final outcome will be eagerly awaited.

Negro Is Sentenced In Assault Attempts

News Birmingham, Ala.

Milton Lizana, 22-year-old Negro, of 1014 North 24th Street, sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in one assault with intent to ravish case two weeks ago, was given another 20-year sentence in a similar case by Circuit Judge John C. Morrow yesterday. 30e(2) ala.

The second sentence was given after a jury found Lizana guilty of assault with intent to ravish a young matron in Norwood last October. The victim in the other assault case had been a 50-year-old woman who lives in Norwood. The Negro was given the maximum sentence in both cases. 1-30-47-Thurs.

The cases were prosecuted by Assistant Circuit Solicitor E. C. Watson.

Youth Is Acquitted On Assault Charges

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb. 7.—(AP)—A Circuit Court jury today acquitted William T. Davidson, 18-year-old Woodlawn youth, of a charge he criminally attacked a 21-year-old Birmingham woman last June. 30e(2) ala.

The jury deliberted approximately an hour.

The woman and a 25-year-old divorcee charged from the witness stand that they were criminally attacked by the defendant and three other Woodlawn youths after they accepted a ride in an automobile in downtown Birmingham. 2-8-47

Davidson testified that the two submitted to his advances willingly. He still faces a charge of criminally assaulting the older woman, and similar cases are pending against William N. Fullington, 18; Robert Nunn, 17, and Eugene McQueen, 18. Fullington and Nunn are charged in two cases and McQueen in one case.

Three Negroes Start Sentences For Assault

CARROLLTON, Ala., April 28—(AP)—Three Pickens County Negroes were at Kilby Prison today, starting 30-year sentences. They had pleaded guilty to charges of assault with intent to rape a rural housewife. 30e(2) ala.

Sheriff Giles Hood said the trio, Walter Haris, 24, Booker T. Benton, 23, and Riley Patton, 23, were secretly arraigned before Circuit Judge Verdo Elmore. He accepted their guilty pleas and assessed the maximum terms. The Negroes were taken immediately to Kilby.

The sheriff said the men admitted conspiring to assault the woman as she went to the well at her home. One Negro slashed her with a knife when she resisted and screamed for help. She was not seriously cut.

Rescued Negro Given 20 Years

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser 30e(2)

PHENIX CITY, ALA., June 18.—(AP)—Jimmy Harris, 19-year-old Negro who was rescued from a mob at nearby Hurtsboro a week ago, was given a 20-year prison sentence today on a charge of assault to ravish in connection with an alleged attempt to rape a white woman. Thur. 6-19-47

Circuit Judge J. S. Williams imposed the sentence shortly after a grand jury had indicted the Negro, who was brought here from Kilby Prison. The court room was practically empty.

In sentencing the Negro, Judge Williams told him:

"You are very fortunate to have escaped with your life. You should be eternally thankful to the good people of Hurtsboro who saved your life."

Harris was seized by a mob of "about 25" white people after a 33-year-old housewife reported he entered her home and attempted to assault her.

Mayor Hugh Vann, who helped rescue the Negro, said the mob had a rope around the Negro's neck and was beating him. The companions took the Negro out of town and he was rushed to Kilby Prison. Thur. 6-19-47

Young Negro Is Given 20 Years In Assault Case

Montgomery Advertiser 30e(2) Montgomery 30e(2)

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., June 9—(AP)—James Wesley William, 16-year-old Negro, was sentenced to 20 years in prison today upon conviction in circuit court on a charge of attempted assault of a white woman in the coaling community, northeast Tuscaloosa County, several weeks ago. Tues. 6-10-47

Negro Gets 20 Years For Assault Attempt

30e(2) Tues. 6-10-47 B'ham. Ala. News

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., June 10—James Wesley Williams, 16-year-old Negro, must serve 20 years in prison for attempting to rape a white woman.

That sentence was imposed on the Negro youth by Circuit Judge W. C. Warren here yesterday. The Negro was convicted of attempting to rape a white woman in the Coaling community, in Northeast Tuscaloosa County, several weeks ago.

In imposing sentence, Judge Warren said: Tues. 6-10-47

"There is no question as to your guilt. I am going to give you the maximum penalty and I hope others will find out that what you have done is a pretty serious thing."

Circuit Solicitor J. Monroe Ward told the court the youth confessed to seizing the woman and attempting to rape her as she was walking alone. She wrenched free from him and called for help. The Negro was arrested several hours later.

The boy's father, James Kelly Williams, refused to testify in his son's behalf. The father said he knew nothing about it.

Man Gets 20 Years In Assault Attempt

30e(2) Thur. 6-19-47 Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Constitution State News Service.

PHENIX CITY, Ala., June 18—a 19-year-old Negro, who was twice saved from lynch threats June 10, was sentenced to 20 years, the maximum, after pleading guilty Wednesday in Russell Circuit Court to a charge of attempted criminal assault of a Hurtsboro, Ala., white housewife. 30e(2)

A special Grand Jury, called to investigate the assault attempt and subsequent lynching threats, returned an indictment early Wednesday afternoon. The small Negro was brought into court at 3:30 p. m. and sentenced by Judge J. S. Williams before a courtroom empty except for newsmen and officials.

Eighteen witnesses, including four Columbus newsmen, were called for testimony on the alleged lynch threat, from which the Negro was removed by Hurtsboro and Russell County officers.

Life Sentence Upheld For Odiorne Who Once Refused 10-Year Term

B'ham. Ala. News Fri. 6-20-47

Charlie Odiorne, the man who once turned down a 10-year compromise sentence, today faced life imprisonment as an accomplice in a 1934 slaying. The Alabama Supreme Court yesterday upheld his life sentence.

Odiorne, a 50-year-old ex-convict, was convicted as an accomplice in the 1934 ax-murder of Jake Prescott, wealthy Alabama timber land owner. He was indicted along with E. J. Burns. Odiorne testified against Burns, who was given the death sentence. Fri. 6-20-47

Burns was electrocuted last year after receiving 12 stays of execution as his attorneys fought the case from court to court.

Odiorne maintained he was entitled to his freedom for his part in convicting Burns. He turned down a recommendation that he accept a 10-year sentence. He later was tried and given a life sentence. His trial came seven months after Burns paid the supreme penalty.

Justice Joel B. Brown, who wrote the Odiorne opinioin, commented that when Odiorne volunteered to testify against Burns after being warned that he could refuse to do so, his action constituted a waiver of his constitutional immunity against testifying to incriminating facts. He said the evidence in the case was sufficient to warrant a finding of first-degree murder.

In other decisions yesterday, the Supreme Court affirmed a death sentence against Leroy Scott, 19, Calhoun County Negro convicted of criminally attacking a white girl. It reversed a murder conviction of Mrs. Mary Liza Sorrell, of Russell County. 30e(2) ala.

The court set July 25 as the date for Scott's electrocution. He had been scheduled to die June 13, but received a respite when an application for rehearing was filed by his attorneys. The rehearing was denied.

Folsom Asked To Spare Life Of Negro Man

Advertiser Thur. 6-12-47 Montgomery, Ala.

Discrimination Termed Means Of Spreading Communism

30e(2) ala.

Blaming "racial prejudice" for the death sentence imposed on a Negro convicted of rape, a defense attorney told Gov. James E. Folsom yesterday that discrimination in law enforcement might well encourage communism among "minority groups" in Alabama.

The attorney, Nesbitt Elmore, of Montgomery, joined representatives of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare in asking Folsom to spare the life of Samuel Taylor, 21-year-old Negro from Mobile.

Taylor is under sentence to die early Friday the 13th because a jury convicted him of raping a 14-year-old white girl a year ago in Prichard, a suburb of Mobile. The Governor withheld announcement of his decision on the clemency plea.

Charges Prejudice

Elmore, arguing that the trial showed "little force, if any" was used in the alleged attack on the girl, contended the jury should have decreed a lesser penalty, but that its verdict was influenced by "prejudice in the minds" of the jurors.

"Would anyone seriously contend," he asked, "that the death penalty would have been inflicted had the races of the participants been reversed? Indeed, we submit that in such case it is not likely the defendant would even have been brought to trial."

Then, reading an Associated Press story from Mobile which quoted Federal Judge John McDuffie as saying an "emissary of communism" was working among Mobile Negroes "trying to convince them that the Russian form of government is best," Elmore declared:

"Certainly this emissary will at some time in the near future be successful in convincing minority groups among our population . . . that the Russian form of government is best unless we, who believe in democracy, make every effort to make our democracy work through equal administration of justice . . . to all of our citizens." Thur. 6-12-47

Asks "Justice"

The attorney told Folsom the condemned Negro was "not asking for mercy, but merely the justice he is entitled to as a citizen of this State."

His assertion that a white man might not be brought to trial for raping a Negro woman brought a sharp reply from Solicitor Carl Booth, who pointed out that three white men, one a policeman, already had been charged with just such offenses.

Statements similar to Elmore's regarding alleged discrimination came from M. C. Dobbs, of Birmingham, State secretary of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and J. L. LeFlore, executive secretary of the Mobile branch of the NCAAP.

Dobbs recalled a case at Abbeville, Ala., a few weeks ago in which, he said, seven white men admitted raping a Negro woman but two attempts to get grand jury indictment failed.

"The State of Alabama is on trial," he declared.

LeFlore described the Prichard case as a "serious miscarriage of justice,—and charged that policemen there had a "reputation among Negroes for ruthless brutality."

The attorney who defended Taylor at his trial, Henri Aldridge, of Mobile, also asked for clemency, but based his arguments primarily on the contention that the victim's identification of the defendant was open to serious question. Thur. 6-12-47

He referred repeatedly to the fact that the girl previously had identified another Negro as her attacker, and asserted, "there is very grave doubt whether she knew who attacked her."

The alleged rape occurred, the State charged, on a Prichard high school ground the night of April 12, 1946, during a dance at the school.

Calhoun Negro Slated To Die At Midnight

Montgomery Advertiser 5-25-47

Unless Gov. Folsom interferes, Leroy Scott, 20-year-old Calhoun County Negro convicted last year for criminally assaulting a Louisville, Miss., girl, is scheduled to die in the Kilby Prison electric chair shortly after midnight today. 30e(2) ala.

Scott, whose original electrocution date was last June 13, has been granted three reprieves by the governor.

The last two were ordered at the request of Scott's attorney, Walter Merrill, of Anniston, who indicated he had additional evidence to offer.

Negro Gets 20 Years

30e(2)

BAY MINETTE, Ala., Dec. 2—(AP)—E. S. T. Mose, Mobile Negro, drew a 20-year prison sentence in Baldwin County Circuit Court on a charge of assault with intent to ravish a white woman in the Spanish Fort Community last September. Birmingham

Acting Circuit Judge Emmett Hildreth, who imposed sentence after the Negro pleaded guilty, remarked from the bench, "I hope the defendant will never be given consideration for parole." Bham.

Mose was arrested after a widespread manhunt by Baldwin County officers and residents of the area.

Sheriff Taylor Wilkins said a naval officer driving by, rescued the woman after the negro had dragged her across the highway toward a wooded area.

Mob Prosecution Not Necessary for Public Good—Grand Jurors

30e(2) Ala. Afri-American Baltimore, Md.

Youth Who Was Saved After Lynch Rope Had Been Placed Around His Neck, Given 20 Years and Reminded He Should Be Thankful

Sat. 6-28-47

PHENIX, Ala.—The Russell County grand jury on June .8 refused to indict members of the mob which attempted two weeks ago to lynch Jimmy Harris, 19, saying, "Our considered judgment is that such action is not necessary for the public good."

The same jury earlier that day indicted Harris on charges of assault with intent to ravish. The youth pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 20 years in prison by Circuit Court Judge J. S. Williams.

The jurist, in pronouncing sentence, told Harris, "You are very fortunate to have escaped with your life. You should be eternally grateful to the people of Hurtsboro for saving your life.

The people to whom he referred were Mayor Hugh Vann of Hurtsboro and three local businessmen, who talked the 25-odd members of the mob into turning over Harris to the Mayor. Mr. Vann immediately rushed him to the sheriff 18 miles away, and the sheriff took him to Kilby Prison at Montgomery. Sat. 6-28-47

Harris, who admitted that he had entered the home of a Hurtsboro woman with the idea of attacking her, was on the ground with a rope around his neck when Mayor Vann reached the near-lynching scene, just outside the woman's home.

In refusing to indict any of the mob members, the grand jury admitted that one or two "might have been guilty of conduct which would have made them subject to indictment for misdemeanor. "

BACKS ANTILYNCH LAW

OAKLAND, Calif. — The National Baptist Sunday School Congress last week asked President Truman to demand a strong Federal antilynching law.

Folsom Hears Plea To Spare Negro's Life

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

'Unusual Circumstances' Cited By Attorney From Anniston

Thurs. 7/31/47

30e(2)/ALA

Gov. Folsom was asked yesterday to consider the "unusual circumstances of the case" in deciding whether a 20-year-old Negro convicted of criminally assaulting a white girl must die in the Kilby Prison electric chair Friday.

The request came from Anniston Attorney Walter Merrill, who represented Leroy Scott, the condemned Negro.

The Governor withheld a decision pending further investigation. Thurs. 7/31/47

In explaining what he meant by the unusual circumstances, Merrill said the alleged attack took place near the Anniston city dump, "one of the toughest places in our town," after the 19-year-old girl and a man companion had been there four or five hours at night.

The girl, an employe of the Anniston Ordnance Depot, admitted that she and the man had been drinking after they drove to the vicinity of the dump, the attorney said.

Three Involved

"Perhaps the strongest argument for leniency," he added, "is that three Negroes were involved. One, a 15-year-old boy, was not indicted, while another, Lee Curtis Williams, received only a life sentence for his part in the crime."

Merrill said two of the Negroes held the girl's companion while Scott forced her to submit to him and that Scott then helped hol dthe man while Williams took the girl off into the woods.

Solicitor J. J. Cockrell, who prosecuted the case against Scott, told the governor no racial prejudice or hatred was injected into the trial and that the Supreme Court had reviewed the record of the case and found no error.

Evidence Plain

"The evidence is plain," he said, "not only did Scott and Williams rape the girl but they robbed her of $6 and divided it between them. Under the law this man has been fairly tried and convicted."

Merrill, pointing out that Scott was but 19 years old when the crime happened, said while he didn't question the legal sufficiency of the evidence, he did feel there was not quite "the air of fairness" about the trial which should have attended a death sentence. Thurs 7/31/47

He said Circuit Judge Lamar Field ordered the courtroom cleared of spectators during the trial but that relatives and friends of the white girl and man were permitted to be present. There were no other Negroes but Scott and several witnesses, he added.

John Scott, father of the Negro, and two representatives of the Anniston Negro Ministerial Association appeared to ask the governor to spare Scott's life.

Alabaman Is Doomed To Die

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

30e(2)

PELL CITY, Ala. — (NNPA) — Robert Huntley, 28, last Thursday was doomed to die in the electric chair, convicted of criminally attacking a white woman near here on April 30.

It took a jury approximately fifty minutes to reach the verdict last Wednesday afternoon.

The defense had charged that a confession had been obtained from Huntley "under duress" and that Huntley signed it after being promised a "light sentence."

Huntley had been taken to Birmingham for safe keeping at the time of the attack and was returned for trial at Pell City.

The victim testified that a colored man entered her home on the morning of April 30 and criminally assaulted her after threatening her with a knife. Wed. 8-23-47

She said teh attacker wearing a coat over his head, forced her into her bedroom where the attack took place. She said she saw only his hands and mouth.

Another witness testified that he had seen the defendant in the neighborhood at the time the attack took place.

Highway Patrolman R. E. White and Chief Deputy Sheriff R. E. Alverson, who arrested Huntley, both denied in court that pressure was used on Huntley to obtain his confession.

Huntley was token to Bormingham where he is being held in the County Jail for "safekeeping," Pell City authorities said.

Man Given Death Sentence for Rape

Black Dispatch

Oklahoma City

30e(2)

PELL CITY, Ala., Aug. — (NNPA) — Robert Huntley, 28, last Thursday was doomed to die in the electric chair, convicted of criminally attacking a white women near here on April 30. Okla

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Huntley was taken to Birmingham where he is being held in County Jail for "safekeeping," Pell City authorities said. 9-13-47

Court Refuses Plea Of Convicted Rapist

News

Birmingham, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. Nov. 14—(AP)—Samuel Taylor, 21-year-old Negro convicted rapist, lost another round in his fight to escape the electric chair yesterday when the Alabama Supreme Court denied a writ of error coram nobis in his case. 30e(2) Fri. 11-14-47

The seldom used writ was filed in an attempt to reopen lower court proceedings on grounds additional evidence has turned up subsequently which should have been considered at the original trial.

Taylor, who has been reprieved from death six times previously and who is scheduled to be electrocuted Nov. 21, was convicted of raping a 14-year-old white girl last year at Prichard, a Mobile suburb.

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2 Convicted For Attacking School Girls

30e(2)

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

MIMS, Florida. - Bill Hagan and W. L. McKnight have been convicted in Circuit Court and sentenced to prison terms of five and seven years respectively on charges of criminal attacks on two Negro high school girls near Chipley, Florida through the efforts of the Washington County branch of the NAACP. The assaults were committed in September. Despite the lightness of the sentences in view of the crimes committed, the convictions establish a precedent in that all white juries have persistently refused hitherto to convict white men charged with rape on colored women even in the face of overwhelming evidence of their guilt.

Fri. 12-26-47

Encouraged by the success attained to date, efforts will now be made to prosecute two companions of Hagan and McKnight who sat in an automobile and watched while the attacks were being perpetrated.

Attorney W. W. Flournoy, a courageous white lawyer of DeFuniak Springs, was retained by the Washington County branch of the NAACP to assist in the prosecution and played a leading role in bringing about the convictions. Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Florida state conference of branches of the NAACP, reports that Washington County officials manifested an unusual spirit of cooperation during the trials and financial assistance was given by other Florida branches of the NAACP and other organizations towards the expenses of the case.

30e(2) 1947

Alabama (Scottsboro)

7550

Haywood Patterson

30e (2) Ala.

Scottsboro Youth Appeals to Public

Courier, Pittsburgh Pa,

Sat. 12-27-47

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—A letter from Haywood Patterson to The Pittsburgh Courier indicates that the youth, one of the central figures in the famous Scottsboro boys case is undergoing a terrific mental strain due partly to his belief that the outside world has forgotten him. Patterson is an inmate at Kilby Prison, where he is serving a life sentence on a rape charge.

The Scottsboro boy's appeal is to the public which he thinks has forgotten his cause. As infrequent as he has visitors is due to prison regulations, but only then does he have relatives.

Apparently Haywood suffers from a lack of common luxuries such as tobacco, cigaretes and other little things. An occasional carton of smokes, a letter of cheer or a few dollars sent to him by money order would lift considerable gloom from his existence, Patterson writes.

12-27-47

In spite of his depressing condition, Patterson mustered enough courage to send best wishes and holiday greetings to persons who have remembered him in prison and expressed hope that through some means he might again become a member of society and enjoy a life of freedom. Haywood Patterson is the last of the nine youths in prison as a result of the charges brought against them in 1933.

Artist Sentenced To Die Paints Judge's Portrait

Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.
30e(2) Ark.

Little Rock, Jan. 20 (AP)—Pulaski County Circuit Judge Lawrence C. Auten is exhibiting a portrait of himself painted by a Negro he had sentenced to die in the electric chair. Tues. 1-21-47

The Negro, Albert Hodges, painted the picture from memory as he awaited electrocution at the State Prison Farm. Judge Auten said Hodges had seen him only twice. Tues. 1-21-47

The picture and a letter asking a stay of execution were received by Auten Saturday—the day after the sentence was carried out. Hodges had been convicted of raping a white woman.

7552

GETS 440 YEARS FOR RAPE

Times New York, N.Y.

'Black Gloved' Californian Hears Sentence, Tries to Escape

30e(2) Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6 (AP)—Frank S. Avilez, 26 years old, known as "the black gloved rapist," made a wild attempt to escape from a court room today after being sentenced to 440 years in prison on rape, robbery and burglary charges.

Avilez had stood for two hours before Judge Melvin Cronin in Superior Court while being sentenced individually on seven counts of rape, four attempts at rape, one assault, ten burglaries and ten robberies. Times-New York,

All this time he stood quietly, handcuffed to Bailif Frank Burns.

"How a man could conduct himself like that is beyond me," Judge Cronin concluded. "I think that is all." Thurs. 8-7-47

As Bailif Burns turned to take his prisoner to the jail, a photographer's flash bulb flared. Avilez pulled the bailif around, kicked at the photographer, and then lunged at two deputies.

Six policemen finally got Avilez down and were able to hold him. A lamp crashed to the floor. Avilez's mother, his wife and two sisters screamed at him to be quiet. With his hands cuffed behind his back and his legs in irons, the tall, rangy prisoner was carried up to jail.

Negro Faces Sentence For Attempted Ravish

Birmingham News Birmingham Ala.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 5—(AP)—Marion Bryant, 22-year-old Negro convicted of attempting to rape Wac Capt. Kay Summersby, former secretarial employe and driver for Gen. Eisenhower, will be sentenced Monday by Federal Judge Louis E. Goodman. 30e(2) Calif.

Bryant was convicted on one count of attempted rape and two counts of breaking in Wac officers' barracks at Hamilton Field last February. Fri. 9-5-47

A previous jury had failed to agree on a verdict.

Negro Given 15 Years For Attempted Ravish

The News Birmingham, Ala. 30e(2)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 10—(AP)—Marion Bryant, 22-year-old Negro convicted of the attempted rape of Wac Capt. Kay Summersby, wartime secretary to Gen. Eisenhower, faces a sentence of 15 years in federal prison.

Bryant was charged with breaking into the Wac barracks at Hamilton Field, north of here, last Feb. 12, and attempting to assault Capt. Summersby. He was convicted at his second trial here last week.

An FBI expert testified that Bryant's fingerprints were found on a window, broken when the would-be assailant fled as an alarm was sounded. Wed. 9-10-47

Federal Judge Louis E. Goodman declared upon imposing sentence yesterday that racial prejudice entered into neither the verdict nor the sentence.

"I believe an organization of colored people that aided in Bryant's defense was misled," the court said. "In my opinion, Bryant is a menace to society and for that reason and that reason alone, I have sentenced him to 15 years in prison."

The jury at Bryant's first trial was unable to agree. 9-10-47

Two Policemen Guilty Of Attacking Young Girl

Birmingham News Birmingham Ala

OAKLAND, Calif., Sept. 6—(AP)—Two former Oakland policemen convicted of taking a 17-year-old girl from the arms of her sweetheart and raping her, Saturday faced sentences of one to 50 years in the state prison at San Quentin.

The jury stipulated in its verdict that the policemen be sentenced to the state prison rather than to a county jail. 30e(2)

Both defendants, Robert G. Bell, 27, and Edward E. Bauer, 31, are married and the wives of both are expecting babies. Sat. 9-6-47

The girl testified that the two officers interrupted her embraces with a 17-year-old boy friend in a city park and had taken turns raping her.

Victim was Eisenhower's ex-secretary

30e(2) Calif. Tribune Los Angeles Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO—A 22-year-old ex-servicemen, whom an Army psychiatrist said is subject to "primitive sex urges", was sentenced to 15 years in the federal penitentiary Monday for the attempted rope of a WAC captain who was once secretary to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Sat. 9-13-47

Sentencing of Marion Bryant after his second trial for the assault last February at Hamilton Field of Capt. Kay Summersby was followed by a denial by federal Judge Louis E. Goodman that the verdict convicting Bryant or his own sentence was prejudiced by the young man's race. Defense counsel, in addition to claiming the veteran's confession was obtained by FBI agents and Marin county deputy sheriffs' use of force had said the trial was prejudiced by Bryant's color.

"I believe the organization of colored people that aided in Bryant's defense was misled", Judge Goodman said.

"In my opinion Bryant is a menace to society and for that reason and that reason alone, I have sentenced him to 15 years in prison.

"I followed this trial very closely and I saw nothing to uphold defense counsel's contention that the jury was prejudiced."

Bryant's first trial, in July, ended in a deadlock jury. Composed of 8 men and four women, including two Negroes, two Chinese and a World War II veteran, the jury voted 8-to-three for an acquittal. Sat. 9-13-47

The attempted rape took place in the laundry room of the WAC barracks where Bryant's wife had worked at one time. Bryant admitted having been in the vicinity earlier in the evening. Both the victim and the Red Cross worker, Cynthia Palmer, who interrupted the attack, admitted they did not see the man's features.

Physician Freed on Attack Count

Afro-American 30e(2) Baltimore, Md. Calif.

LOS ANGELES—Dr. Jerome W. Johnson, a 1938 graduate of the Howard Medical School and a major in World War II, last week was freed in municipal court on a charge of having attacked a 15-year-old girl in his offices here on Oct. 11. Sat. 11-29-47

Highlight of the day-long trial was a report by Frank T. Clarke, a private investigator, that the girl's stepfather had accepted a $300 "payoff," with an expectancy of $300 more. In addition, he said that the man gave him $50 as a "kickback." Mon Sat.

The defense also argued that obtaining justice was not the motive inasmuch as the family of the girl waited over a month before prosecuting. The first arrest, it was learned, was that of the girl on a truancy charge.

Investigation Expected

According to New Division juvenile officers, it was then that the girl made the attack charge, adding that disease had kept her from attending school.

Newsmen and other observers commenting later on the trial, expressed belief that an investigation of the Newton Division police department's juvenile bureau will be undertaken.

Dismiss Rape Charge Against L. A. Medic

30e(2) Calif. Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 11-29-47

By HERMAN HILL, Courier Los Angeles Bureau

LOS ANGELES—Statutory rape charges were dismissed against Dr. Jarone Johnson of 2261 W. Twenty-sixth Street, World War II veteran and prominent young Los Angeles medico, last Friday by Judge Philbrick McCoy in Division 28, Municipal Court.

The judge ordered the district attorney's office to make a complete investigation of the case because testimony at the hearings strongly indicated that extortion had been practiced on Dr. Johnson. 11-29-47 Courier Pittsburgh Pa.

The Los Angeles police Bunko Squad and commanding officers in the Juvenile Bureau are also investigating the case.

ACCUSED BY GIRL, 15

The complaint against Dr. Johnson was filed by Mrs. Eugene Rush of 4924 South Wadsworth Avenue, the mother of 15-year-old Vertice Rush, who charged that Dr. Johnson forcibly raped her daughter in his office, located at 4320 Avalon Boulevard, last Oct. 11.

The girl had been brought to the doctor's office for treatment by her mother on two previous occasions. 30e(2)

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Rush, the child's stepfather, accompanied her to the doctor's office and suggested there had been a "misunderstanding" between his daughter and the doctor. Calif Sat 11-29-47

EXTORTION THREAT

He revealed the child's charges and assertedly told the doctor if the case was made public it would ruin him and demanded $5,000 to hush the matter up.

Dr. Johnson testified later that he talked to both parents, and Mrs. Rush decleared she did not believe her daughter's story.

Mr. Rush was adamant, however, that some financial arrangement be made. Doctor Johnson said he explained that he did not have $5,000, but would do what he could.

After consultation with associates, it was decided to retain a private detective, Frank Clarke, for investigation purposes.

The district attorney's office was to be notified of the situation once Rush had accepted money.

GAVE FATHER $300

Clarke contacted Rush and he agreed to take $3,000 or less. The Sat. 11-29-47 two men met on Oct. 16 and Clarke testified he gave Rush $300, with a promise of $300 more in the future. Pittsburgh Courier

Clarke said Rush gave a $50 kickback for his "help" and this sum was later returned to Dr. Johnson.

On Nov. 13, Vertice was picked up by Juvenile officers for truancy. Following interrogation and a physical examination, she told the officers of her affair with Doctor Johnson.

Subsequently, on Nov. 14, a complaint was issued for the medico, and his attorney, Walter L. Gordon Jr., surrendered him and posted bail. Juvenile officers William Broady and Ernest Hannibal were in charge of the case.

Dr. H. E. A. Forde, Dr. Johnson's associate, said he was paid a visit at his office by Atty. Earl Broady on Nov. 13. The latter, according to the doctor, advised that he learned a complaint was to be issued against Dr. Johnson on the following day and said he believed he could quash it. He asked Dr. Forde to have Dr. Johnson to come to his office.

ACT IMPOSSIBLE

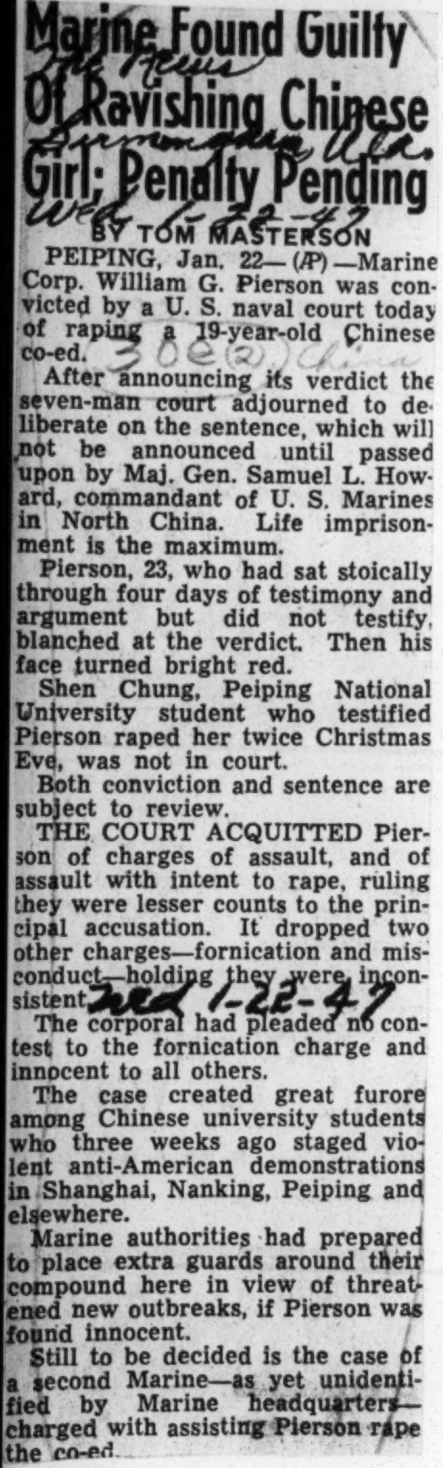
Dr. Johnson steadfastly maintained his innocence and testified it would have been impossible for him to be guilty of such an act because of the position of the table, the fact that the child was accompanied by two other companions who waited in the nearby reception room, and further because he had another patient in another adjoining room whom he was treating. Sat. 11-29-47

WAR VETERAN

A native of Mansfield, La., Dr. Johnson is a graduate of Howard University School of Medicine, and spent four years as a resident physician at Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis. He is a specialist in internal medicine and was chief of section at Fort Huachuca Hospital of stomach diseases, and spent a year at Tuskegee in the Veterans Administration Hospital. He served four and a half years in the Army. He is married and has two children.

30e(2) 1947 China

7553



Marine Found Guilty Of Ravishing Chinese Girl; Penalty Pending

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Wed 1-22-47

BY TOM MASTERSON

PEIPING, Jan. 22—(AP)—Marine Corp. William G. Pierson was convicted by a U. S. naval court today of raping a 19-year-old Chinese co-ed.

30e(2) China

After announcing its verdict the seven-man court adjourned to deliberate on the sentence, which will not be announced until passed upon by Maj. Gen. Samuel L. Howard, commandant of U. S. Marines in North China. Life imprisonment is the maximum.

Pierson, 23, who had sat stoically through four days of testimony and argument but did not testify, blanched at the verdict. Then his face turned bright red.

Shen Chung, Peiping National University student who testified Pierson raped her twice Christmas Eve, was not in court.

Both conviction and sentence are subject to review.

THE COURT ACQUITTED Pierson of charges of assault, and of assault with intent to rape, ruling they were lesser counts to the principal accusation. It dropped two other charges—fornication and misconduct—holding they were inconsistent.

Wed 1-22-47

The corporal had pleaded no contest to the fornication charge and innocent to all others.

The case created great furore among Chinese university students who three weeks ago staged violent anti-American demonstrations in Shanghai, Nanking, Peiping and elsewhere.

Marine authorities had prepared to place extra guards around their compound here in view of threatened new outbreaks, if Pierson was found innocent.

Still to be decided is the case of a second Marine—as yet unidentified by Marine headquarters—charged with assisting Pierson rape the co-ed.

30e(2) 1947

Florida

7554

Death Sentence Upheld for Jaxon

Sat. The Florida Tattler 6-21-47

30e(2) Fla.

The supreme court Wednesday upheld the death sentence of Tom Melton, Jacksonville Negro, who was convicted for rape of a 16-year-old white girl, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Tallahassee.

The court, in an opinion by Circuit Judge George Holt of Miami, ruled a confession by Melton was not obtained by force or threats, and if its admission at the trial were erroneous "the remaining testimony . . . is so overwhelming that it would be harmless error."

"Appelant received a fair trial in every respect; he was treated with every possible care and consideration; he had able counsel; every opportunity to present his defense to the charge was granted him," the court said. Sat. 6-21-47

Melton was convicted of raping the girl, at the point of a gun, in front of her male companion on June 27, 1946. During the trial he confessed to robbing the couple, but denied the rape charge.

The negro was sentenced to death in the electric chair.

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3 Charged In Assaults On White Women, Die

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill. Sat. 6-28-47

RAIFORD, Fla.—Three colored men died in the electric chair at the State Prison Farm here last Monday for allegedly assaulting white women.

30e(2)

Two of the men, James A. Maxwell, 30, and Joe Ferguson, 41, convicted of assault in Broward County, went to their deaths first. They were followed by Tom Melton, 31, convicted of attacking a Duval County woman. Prison Superintendent L. F. Chapman said the men declined to make final comment. 9-28-47 Sat.

CONVICTION OF FLA. MEN FOR ASSAULT OBTAINED

Baltimore [illegible]

MIMS, Fla.—Bill Hagan and W. L. McKnight, both white, have been given five and seven-year sentences for attacking two high school girls near Chipley as a result of NAACP intervention.

12-27-47

CONVICT 2 WHITE MEN FOR RAPE OF FLORIDA NEGRO GIRL

30e(2)

Daily Worker

Mon. 12-22-47

MIMS, Fla., Dec. 20.—Bill Hagan and W. L. McKnight—both white—were sentenced this week in the Washington County Circuit Court to prison terms of five and seven years years, respectively, for criminal attacks on two Negro high school girls.

The assaults were committed last September near Chipley, Florida. An all-white jury brought back the guilty verdicts. Observers considered the sentences as light for the offenses charged, but were encouraged as breaking a precedent, long established, of freeing white men charged with raping Negro women.

W. W. Flournoy, a courageous white attorney retained by the NAACP, aided the prosecution and played a leading part in obtaining the convictions.

12-19-47 Fri.

FLORIDA NAACP SECURES CONVICTION OF TWO WHITES FOR RAPING NEGRO SCHOOL GIRLS

30e(2)

12-19-47-Fri. December 19, 1947

Mims, Florida, Dec. 17th--Bill Hagan and W. L. McKnight have been convicted in Circuit Court and sentenced to prison terms of five and seven years respectively on charges of criminal attacks on two Negro high school girls near Chipley, Florida through the efforts of the Washington County branch of the NAACP. The assaults were committed in September. Despite the lightness of the sentences in view of the crimes committed, the convictions establish a precedent in that all white juries have persistently refused hitherto to convict white men charged with rape on colored women even in the face of overwhelming evidence of their guilt. Press Service NAACP New York, N.Y.

Encouraged by the success attained to date, efforts will now be made to prosecute two companions of Hagan and McKnight who sat in an automobile and watched while the attacks were being perpetrated.

Attorney W. W. Flournoy, a courageous white lawyer of De Funiak Springs, was retained by the Washington County branch of the NAACP to assist in the prosecution and played a leading role in bringing about the convictions. Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Florida state conference of branches of the NAACP, reports that Washington County officials manifested an unusual spirit of cooperation during the trials and financial assistance was given by other Florida branches of the NAACP and other organizations towards the expenses of the case.

7555

Death Penalty

30e(2) gen

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Editor Constitution: The letter of Mr. James L. Mathis in "The Pulse of the Public" June 12, attempting to defend lynching is based mainly on an assumption that must be challenged.

Mr. Mathis says that when the law has handled cases of Negroes charged with rape of white women "the results have been short sentences." Sun. 6-22-47

The records will show that in such trials, where there is reasonable evidence of guilt, the sentences have almost always been severe—either life imprisonment or the death penalty, usually the latter.

This is not to defend the crime of rape, which should be quickly and severely punished no matter who commits it or who is the victim. But the majority of Southerners believe that this punishment is the exclusive duty of the law. If we let loose vengeful mobs, the habit of violence will spread. More than one innocent man has been lynched.

GEORGE S. MITCHELL,
Executive Director, Southern Regional Council. Sun. 6-22-47

Two Guilty in Attack Cases

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

30e(2) gen.

The long arm of the law reached out last week and snared three whites in as many States who committed attacks on Negro women and children. The FBI has stepped into one of the cases.

Stiffest penalty was a life sentence imposed on 24-year-old Laverne Yarbrough, war veteran of Laurel, Miss., who was convicted of raping a 5-year-old Negro girl, daughter of a minister. The child was admitted as a competent witness in the trial. The attack took place on Dec. 6 last year. The jury deliberated for two hours.

In Baltimore, Md., another all-white jury found Charles W. Redder, white, guilty of raping Mrs. Mary C. Lance on Nov. 13, 1946, as she was returning from a hospital, where she was receiving maternity treatment. She was attacked at the point of a gun. The jury deliberated thirty minutes.

The FBI has intervened in the Greensburg (Pa.) case of 33-year-old William D. Mitchell, a Wilmerding (Pa.) carpenter. Mitchell, arrested on three sex charges, confessed that he had raped a 14-year-old girl of Connellsville, taking her to Youngstown and Canton, Ohio and attacking her twice. He is married and the father of three children. Sat. 3-22-47

That's what we like about the South—dept.

~~Los Angeles~~, Calif. Tribune

30e(2) gen.

It takes no time at all to find a Negro guilty of rape

Sat. 7-5-47

It took three juries in two different parts of the country a total of 47 minutes last week to sentence three Negroes to death for rape. All of their rape victims were white.

In Darlington, S. C., a jury deliberated 30 minutes to find 18-year-old Bert Grant Jr. guilty of rape. He was sentenced to die July 25.

In the same city, a jury stayed out 10 minutes before returning with word that Willie Pooler, 23, was guilty of rape. Sentence was also death. Sat. 7-5-47

In Forest City, Ark., an all-male jury on which two Negroes sat, took 7 minutes to find Lawrence Willie Dukes, 31, guilty of the rape slaying of Mrs. Ethel Ellis Boyd, taxicab operator. Dukes got the death penalty.

NO OTHER CRIME

Advertiser

In an article captioned "Eastern Newspapers Please Copy," The Southern Weekly calls attention to some recent "incidents" in racial relations in the South involving legal justice to Negroes. It predicts that these incidents will not receive much publicity in those Eastern publications which "play up the occasional failings in Southern justice."

30e(2) gen.

The Southern Weekly refers to two items "from the day's news" recently cited by The Atlanta Constitution. Advertiser

One instance was from Ozark, in predominantly rural Dale County, Alabama. There a special grand jury indicted three white men on a charge of assaulting a Negro woman. It was pointed out that Circuit Judge J. J. Williams termed the incident a "horrible crime," and that indictments were returned without hesitation.

Montgomery, Ala. Mon. 10-27-47

The other case was from Candler County, in rural southeast Georgia. A white man was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter of a Negro who died after having an altercation with the accused. The white man, who pleaded self-defense, was sentenced to 9 to 15 years in prison.

Declaring that these are not isolated cases, The Southern Weekly invites attention to incidents of another kind which, it declares Eastern newspapers seldom take any notice of. It refers to an aftermath of the notorious Scottsboro Case of 16 years ago, in which five Negroes were convicted of having assaulted two white girls.

The Southern Weekly alludes to the recent arrest in Chattanooga of one of the Scottsboro defendants who "was positively identified in a police line-up as one of three highwaymen who robbed a liquor store in that city. Part of the loot was found on his person. Moreover, his record shows that this is his fifth arrest since the Scootsboro case." Mon. 10-27-47

The Southern Weekly then declares: "This is the latest proof that the hullaboo made over the Scottsboro case, like most such agitation, was really an effort to 'save' criminals from punishment solely because they were Negroes."

Further mention is made in the article of the decline of the "atrocious crime" of lynching. "No crime has been reduced so nearly to the vanishing point anywhere in the country as has lynching in the South," it asserts.

The article in The Southern Weekly touches a point upon which Southern people are inclined to be sensitive, and, in this case in very large measure rightly so. They are aware that our record of courthouse justice to the Negro has been shameful. They know also that there has been tremendous improvement, and are determined to better the record of impartial justice.

Anyone who has lived in the South knows that for every vicious, criminal or even uncharitable incident between the two races, there are a thousand other examples of kindliness and good will, taken as a matter of course in daily contacts. It is indeed irritating to be forever damned for the derelictions, while no note is taken of the good side.

Sentenced On Rape Charges

Argus 30e2

Saint Louis Missouri

Raymond [illegible] Droll, [illegible] years old (white), of 5610 West Pleasant avenue, a clerk, was sentenced to 21 years in the State penitentiary on three statutory charges when he faced Judge Edward M. Ruddy, Tuesday.

Fri. 12-5-47

Droll pleaded guilty to two charges of rape and one of assault to do great bodily harm. The rape charges were brought against him by two colored girls for which he received eight years for raping each girl. The assault charge was for assaulting a white girl and he received five years for that, bringing the total to 21 years. 30e(2)

7556

5-Year Battle Saves Man From Electric Chair

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
4-24-47

Constitution State News Service.

FACON, April 23 — Sylvester Andrews, Macon Negro, won a five-year battle against the shadow of the electric chair Wednesday, when the State Board of Pardons and Paroles reversed two previous decisions and commuted the death sentence in the widely publicized case. 30e(2)

The case of the Negro, sentenced in July, 1942, in Bibb County Superior Court for the assault of a Negro woman, has attracted wide attention, not only in Georgia, but in all sections of the United States, because it has represented the outstanding case in the use of Habeas Corpus to set aside verdicts and decisions already rendered. 4-24-47

Brown Executed At Tattnall Prison

30e(2)

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Six weeks after he attacked two white women in Screven County, James Brown, 25-year-old Negro, was executed Tuesday in the electric chair at Tattnall Prison.

Wed. 6-18-47

Brown committed both attacks within a few hours after he escaped from a Bulloch County convict camp May 7. He was convicted and sentenced to death at Sylvester May 22. 30e(2) Wed. 6-18-47

Man Gets Life In Assault Case

Atlanta, Ga.
Constitution

Constitution State News Service.

GRIFFIN, June 26—Marion Hall, Negro, was found guilty of assault and attempt to murder and rob by a Spalding Superior Court Jury and was sentenced to life imprisonment. 30e(2)

Hall was charged with having entered the home of an aged invalid, Mrs. A. B. Moore, last January, and brutally beating her. The State in presenting the case called it one of the most brutal crimes ever perpetrated in this community. The star witness for the State was Mrs. Moore who was brought into the Courtroom on a stretcher. Fri. 6-27-47

Another case, against S. V. Price charged with the murder of H. G. Morris came before the Court Wednesday. Thursday morning the Court sentenced Price to two years and charged him with manslaughter after the jury deliberated over 10 hours.

After Morris was killed some months ago, investigators reported he had been killed by a hit-and-run driver. Price was later charged with murder when blood was found on his car. Fri. 6-27-47

Ga. Chair Takes Man's Life as 'Attack' Hysteria Mounts

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

30e(2)

REIDSVILLE, Ga. (NNPA) — As hysteria over "criminal attacks" spreads throughout the South, James Brown, 25, convicted of such a charge against a white woman, last May, in a three-hour trial, at Sylvania, Ga., paid for the crime with his life here, Friday, when he was executed.

Meanwhile, in Darlington, S.C., two juries deliberated less than 30 minutes, in convicting two men on attack charges, one of them, Bert Grant, 18, being sentenced to die in the electric chair on July 25. Sat. 6-28-47

The other convicted man, Willie Pooler, 23, is awaiting sentence after having been found guilty of assaulting a 67-year-old woman. The jury that heard his case was closeted together less than 10 minutes.

Deaths Delayed in N.C.

However, in North Carolina, two men, Marvin C. Bell of Yadkinville and Ralph V. Litteral of Winston-Salem, who were scheduled to be electrocuted last Saturday, for attacking a 15-year-old girl, won the right to live a little while longer.

Gov. Gregg Cherry granted Litteral a reprieve; and Chief Justice Walter P. Stacy of the State Supreme Court signed a stay of execution for Bell. Sat. 6-28-47

Bell's stay of execution was ordered to give his attorneys time to ask the United States Supreme Court to review the case. The North Carolina Supreme Court has refused a new trial for either of the two men.

Whatley Gets 12-20-Yr. Term

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

30e(2)

Dorsey Whatley, 29, of 715 West Hunter Street, who was indicted along with George Warrior for criminal assault by the grand jury on May 20, was sentenced Tuesday in the Fulton County Superior Court by Judge Hendrix to 12 to 20 years of hard labor. Whatley confessed to the crime. Wed. 6-25-47

He was the confessed accomplice of George Warrior, 28 of 703 Jett Place, who was tried on charges of rape and sodomy and sentenced to 20 years after eight women had pointed him out as the man who had attacked them on some occasion.

Jurors Doom Georgia Rapist In 3 Minutes

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Nearly 50 Officers Guard Negro Closely

Fri. 5-23-47

Sylvania, Ga., May 22 (AP)—James Brown, 25-year-old Negro, closely guarded by nearly 50 officers, was convicted today of raping a white woman and was sentenced to die in the electric chair June 17. 30e(2)

A Screven County jury deliberated only 3 minutes in deciding the fate of the Negro, who was indicted on charges of raping two white women the same day six weeks ago. He had escaped shortly before from the Bulloch County prison camp.

The trial was completed in 3 hours and Brown was taken to the State prison at Reidsville by an escort of 35 State patrolmen.

Brown was tried for the rape of a mother of two children. The indictment said he forced the 26-year-old farm wife into a truck he had stolen, drove to a lonely spot, and raped her.

A second indictment charged the Negro drove the truck through Sylvania with the woman lying on the floor, halted another car, and raped the woman driver before her 3-year-old son. He was charged with locking the second victim and her child in the trunk of their car. Brown was tried only for the first offense. Fri. 5-23-47

The Negro denied the charge.

Man Gets 15 Years In Assault Case

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Constitution State News Service.

VALDOSTA, July 25—Eddie Blake, 17-year-old Lowndes County Negro, was sentenced to from 15 to 20 years in prison Thursday by Judge George Lilly, of the Southern Judicial Circuit, when he pleaded guilty to attempted criminal assault on a young white girl of the Clyattville Community last June 28. 30e(2)

The sentence was made in the Lowndes Superior Court here. J. B. Edwards, Solicitor, was in charge of State prosecution. H. B. Edwards, Jr., defended the accused. Sat. 7-26-47

Blake was hunted by Lowndes County, City and State law officials for about four hours on the day of the alleged crime, being apprehended by a member of the Valdosta police force. He was held in the Lowndes County jail until the trial. Sat. 7-26-47

Dean Acquitted In Attack Case

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

MACON, Oct. 16—(AP)—Toomsboro Alderman Barney C. Dean, charged with assault with intent to attack a Toomsboro high school student, was acquitted in Bibb Superior Court. 30e(2)

The defense had charged the girl's father beat her with a leather belt to force her to tell her story against Dean. The father was defeated by Dean in a recent race for Alderman in Toomsboro.

Johnny Martin, Telfair County Negro, charged with attacking a Telfair married white woman, was sentenced to 20 years. 47

Gets 20 Years On Seven-Count Attack Charge

30e(2)

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier
Sat. 7-5-47

ATLANTA — (ANP) — George Warrior, 28, was sentenced to serve twenty years in prison last week following trial on the first seven counts of a fourteen-count indictment carging rape, sodomy and assault on as many colored women.

Dorsey Whatley, 29 who was indicted along with Warrior after he confessed the crime, was sentenced to serve from twelve to twenty years on the charges.

The attack reign on Atlanta's West Side lasted over several months. The victims included young girls and married women alike, some having been taken by force from their husbands and sweethearts. Sat. 7-5-47

Had the victims been white, there is little doubt that the death penalty would have been imposed upon the accused men.

Atlanta Man Receives 20-Year Sentence For Multiple Attacks

30e(2)

Chicago, Ill. Defender

ATLANTA — (ANP) — George Warrior, 28, was sentenced to serve 20 years in prison last week following trial on the first seven counts of a 14-count indictment charging rape, sodomy and assault on as many colored women.

Dorsey Whatley, 29, who was indicted along with Warrior after he confessed the crime, was sentenced to serve from 12 to 20 years on the charges.

The attack reign on Atlanta's West side lasted over several months. The victims included young girls and married women alike, some having been taken by force from their husbands and sweethearts.

A coupe used in the attacks was identified finally by one of the victims and the subsequent identifications and arrests occurred.

Had the victims been white, there is little doubt that the death penalty would have been imposed on the accused men.

Warrior's defense was that he was innocent of all charges. His plea appeared as that of an "Uncle Tom," seeking mercy by belittling his race and acknowledging "white supremacy."

Minister Exonerated In 'Assault'

30e(2)

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

Constitution State News Service.

MOULTRIE, Oct. 8—The Rev. J. C Embree, 37, former Pastor of the Doerun Baptist Church, was free Wednesday after a Colquitt Grand Jury refused to indict him on charges of criminally assaulting a 12-year-old girl member of his church choir.

The jury returned a no-bill Tuesday after hearing testimony from the girl, her mother, Doerun Mayor J. W. Toney and other witnesses. 10-9-47

The girl's father, who swore out the warrant under which Embree was arrested August 11, did not testify. After two days in Moultrie jail, the Pastor was released on $2,000 bond.

Shortly thereafter he resigned as Pastor of the Doerun church and left town. His Moultrie attorney said he was in Atlanta.

The case created a sensation. A short time after the Pastor's arrest a crowd of about 25 persons gathered around the Doerun jail, Mayor Toney said. Sheriff T. V. Beard then sent a deputy to Doerun for Embree and he was put in jail here.

While being held Embree told a Moultrie newsman, "I am not guilty." He added, "When they locked me up in Doerun all they said was, 'You know what for.'" He was then told by the newsman the charge that had been lodged against him. This brought his denial.

5 To 20 Years For Man
n Criminal Assault Suit

~~30 e(2) Ga.~~ Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

Charged with two counts of criminal assault, Raymond Baker, of 602 Atlanta Ave., Decatur, Ga., was meted a 15 to 20 year sentence in Fulton Superior court Wednesday.

Both of Baker's alleged victims were colored who testified that he accosted them in downtown Atlanta, tendered them a ride in a taxi cab and carried them beyond East Point off Roosevelt highway where he beat and forced them to submit to his sex crime. Daily World

Asst. Solicitor William Hall said one of the victims claimed that Baker beat her savegely and broke her leg in his actions to assault her. During the scuffle she reportedly bit Baker on the arm. It was this scar and identification of Baker by both of the victims which led to his arrest, the solicitor said.

The other victim, who also claimed that Baker beat her savegely, said she managed to escape from him when a train passed through the isolated sectoon. While Baker was entangled in some vines she crossed the tracks and the passing train separater the two, giving her ample time to escape. The escape was managed after Baker had assaulted her, the victim said. Thu. 10-16-47

Both crimes allegedly occurred last July.

PREVIOUS RECORD

Court records reveal that Baker had previously been convicted on a rape charge and was meted a sentence of from one to five years. Circumstances surrounding this case were suprisingly similar to the latter two cases. Atlanta, Ga.

In his approach to his victims, Baker is alleged to have pretended to be a war veteran just discharged from the service.

Atty. Hall in remarking of Baker's case and the many rape cases involving Negroes said, "Heavy sentences for such crimes is one factor that will go a long way in stopping sex crimes."

Then,e too, he surmised, Wide publication of the heavy sentences imposed on the criminals will greatly influence other would-be-rapist that crime does not pay.

Two-Year Term Meted Out To Alleged Attacker

30e(2) Ga.

Atlanta, Ga.

Daily World

Marvin Peek, 24, of 188 Bailey St., charged with criminal assault, was sentenced to two years imprisonment Thursday, when his attorney desisted in continuing the trial which started Wednesday and entered a plea of guilty for his defendant.

Sentence was imposed by Fulton Superior Court Judge Walter C. Hendrix. 10-25-47

Peek was accused of assaulting a 16-year-old Collier St., girl who told the court that he accosted her on the night of September 23 while she was in company with her sister and at the threat of a gun forced her in th rear of a church at Chapel and Fair St., where he committed the sex crime. Sat.

During the nullified trial several church members attending the Refuge of God said they were attracted to the couple by the distressing cries of the victim. One of the members is purported to have called police to the scene.

When officers arrived and arrested Peek, a German luger was said to have been found in his posssession He denied the criminal assault charge, the officers said, and contended that he had paid the young girl for an illicit transaction.

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5 Youths Meted One Year Sentences For Assault, Battery

30e(2)

Five youths were meted one year sentences each in Fulton Criminal Court Monday on charges of assualt and battery on a woman who claimed that at least two of the number criminally attacked her. Another 15-year-old youth allegedly involved was handled by juvenile authorities. Daily World

The convicted youths were: Richard McBride, 18, of 1099 Washington Hgts. Terrace, S. W.; James Dawkins, 18, of 808 Greensferry Ave.; Douglas Jennings, 16, of 1048 Lena St.; Richard Dorsey, 17, of 1076 Lena St., S. W.; and Calvin Turner, 16, of 1098 Harwell St. Atlanta, Ga.

The victim charged that a soldier took her from her boyfriend at the threat of a knife while they were in Washington Park stadium and he and two of the accused youth assaulted her. 10-24-47

The soldier, Private Norman J. Newton, is reported to have been sentenced to two years for his alleged participation.

17-Year-Old Boy, Charged By White Woman, To Die

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

30e(2)

ATLANTA, Ga.—A 17-year-old boy, accused of terrorizing the southern section of this city last summer, was sentenced on Wednesday, to die in the electric chair December 12 for alleged criminal assault upon a 70-year-old woman. Sat.-11-1-47

The boy, James Ward Sims, was found guilty of the charge after a jury had debated only 30 minutes.

The woman, a retired nurse, accused Sims of the crime. The youth had previously entered pleas on six indictments, charging him with larceny of a automobile, ten burglaries, one assault to commit burglary, an attempted criminal assault and assault to murder.

7557

7557

Man Charged With Criminal Assault

30e(2) Ga., Daily World

...op Hall, charged with criminal assault, was sentenced to from one to two years in Fulton Superior court Wednesday when he entered a plea of guilty in assaulting a [illegible] Street woman. 10-9-47

The defendant was meted another one to two year sentence for assaulting a Scotts Crossing woman. Both sentences were ordered by Judge Walter C. Hendrix to run concurrently.

Death Penalty Upheld; Youth Re-Sentenced

30e(2) Ga., Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia.

James Mangum, youthful Negro convicted of criminal assault on a white woman by a Fulton Superior court jury in March 1946 and whose death penalty was upheld by Georgia Supreme court, was re-sentenced to die in the electric chair on next November 14. The youth was re-sentenced by Judge Virlyn B. Moore, of Fulton Superior court last Saturday.

Attorney A. T. Milam, co-counsel for the accused, disclosed late Monday that he and his associates "have not given up the case," asserting further that the decision will be contested until "every effort is exhausted and there is no other court to which an appeal can be made."

Attorney Milan also stated that counsels for defense are currently preparing a habeas copus petition for the release of Magnum, charging his conviciton as void because it resulted from "coercion, duress, threat and assault."

Counsels representing Magnum other than Mr. Milam, include Gordon Smith and S. S. Robinson and Leon A. Ransome, of the Fickley and Tate firm.

The crime which Mangum is accused occurred in September, 1945 He was tried an convicted in March 1946. Since that time, Atty. Milam and his collaborators have fought the case untiringly and with resolute purpose to have the conviction reversed.

Wed. 10-2-47

In the hearing before the State Supreme court last summer, defense counsels contended that Mangum was beaten by City Officers to such an extent that he had to be hospitalized for several days. The defense charged further that they placed before the illiterate youth a confession of the crime under pretense that it was a bond for his release. It was through this deceit that Mangum signed the alleged confession, they said, which, they considered, greatly influenced the returned verdict of guilty against him.

At the time of his conviction the youth was 16-years-old.

Man Meted 3 To 5 Years On Criminal Assault Charge

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga. 30e(2)

Charged with criminal assault, Willie Foster, 29, of 442 Broomhead alley, was tried in Fulton Superior court Wednesday and meted a sentence of three to five years when the jury returned its verdict with recommendaion of mercy.

Foster was accused of attacking a 19-year-old Chappell Road woman. Thur. 10-23-47

The alleged victim claimed that Foster accosted her at Peachtree Arcade on the night of September 19, put a knife about her neck and forced her to ride a streetcar to the scene of the assault which allegedly occurred in the vicinity of McDaniel and Glenn Streets.

At the time of the incident examination of the victim disclosed that she had had physical contact, Grady medics reported.

Foster was taken under arrest after the victim identified him, police said.

Negro Goes To Chair For Ravishing Woman

Dothan, Ala. News 30e(2)

Tues. 6-17-47

REIDSVILLE, Ga., June 17—(AP)—A Negro, 25-year-old James Brown, who was convicted by a jury in three minutes of raping a white woman May 6, is scheduled to die in the electric chair at the state prison here today.

Brown's conviction came after a three-hour trial at Sylvania, Ga., May 22. He was also charged with the rape of another white woman. He has never been brought to trial on that count. Tues-6-17-47

The Negro was accused of raping the two women near Sylvania shortly after his escape from a Bullock County convict camp. He was under sentence for forgery.

16-Year-Old Youth Meted Chair For Alleged Assault

30e(2) Ga., Atlanta, Daily World

Sixteen-year-old James Ward Sims of Scott's Crossing was sentenced to die in the electric chair next December 12 after a Fulton Superior court jury found him guilty Tuesday of criminally assaulting a 74-year-old white Atlanta ex-nurse in her home last July 27.

The all-white jury deliberated for fifty minutes before returning its verdict following which Judge Walter C. Hendrix imposed "the death penalty. Wed. 10-2-47

During the course of the trial Prosecutor J. W. Dorsey introduced a multiplicity of evidence which he charged "definitely linked Sims with the assault."

Included in that evidence were blood-stained bedding, a blood-stained nightgown, blood-stained trousers and underwear, photographed footprint and fingerprints and a pair of tennis shoes.

A Fulton County criminologist testified that the trousers and underwear, alleged to have been property of Sims, possessed the same type of blood as that of the retired nurse. A footprint allegedly found on the ground near the window of the aged woman matched those of Sims, the prosecutor declared. Fingerprints found on the window-sill of the victim's room were also testified to be those of Sims.

NO DEFENSE EVIDENCE

The defense offered no evidence during the course of the trial but in summation attempted to discount each bit of evidence offered by the state, by citing an alternate probability for each. Defense counsels were Swift Tyler and O'Neal.

Atty. O'Neal at one point during the trial asked for the dismissal of the case, saying that no direct evidence nor testimony have been given to substantiate a charge of rape. He asserted further that no physician had made an external examination of the alleged victim in search of spermatazoa, nor was there evidence to show where the spinster made an outcry for help. When the alleged victim testified- she merely said "I guess I was raped"- O'Neal contended. Absence of such evidence did not warrant a charge of rape, he declared.

JUDGE REFUSES DISMISSAL

Judge Hendrix requested that the court reporter read back the testimony of the nurse and it was disclosed that on one occasion she said she guessed she was raped but further reading disclosed she made a positive statement of the crime. He ordered the case continued.

Endeavoring to discount that the presence of blood on the nurse's gown corrorboated a crime of rape Atty. O'Neal said the aged-woman who was said to have been brutally beaten about the face, could have used her gown to wipe the blood from it.

About all that Sims said in his own behalf was that he did not commit the crime, nor did he tell officers that he burglarized the spinster's residence to which they had testified. Wed. 10-2-47

OVERGROWN YOUTH

Sims, an unusually large youth for his stated age, sat very attentively with his two attorneys, who objected repeatedly to the pile of testimony introduced by the state.

The bespectacled nurse, about four and a half feet in height appeared to have some difficulty in getting about. She was aided by two elderly women companions and a cane.

10 →

She claimed that someone cut her screen window, entered her darkened room and beat her savagely before committing the assualt.

A knife allegedly found in Sim's possession upon his arrest was testified to by the criminologists as showing evidence of having cut some metal recently.

Sims was arrested along with another companion when an officer who had been informed of the peculiar tennis track, reportedly observed that Sims tracks fitted the description. At that time Sims was arrested and held for burglary. Several pieces of jewely were said to have been in his possession at the time and a quanity of other goods was found at his residence. For his alleged participation in the series of burglaries he was sentenced to 30 years. 30e(2) Ga., Wed.

During the criminal assault trial an alleged confession to the burglaries was introduced as evidence This confession contained an admission that he attempted to burglarize the residence of the nurse but failed to admit the rape charge.

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18 Year-Old Youth Sentenced To Chair

30e(2) Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

BRUNSWICK, Ga.— (SNS)— 18 year old James Mangum, convicted on a charge of rape in the Fulton County Superior Court, was scheduled to die in the electric chair, November 14, after a battery of defense attorneys failed to win a new trial for the youth before Federal Judge Frank M. Scarlett. Sat. 11-11-47

Judge Scarlett overruled a motion for a writ of habeas corpus which would have entitled the youth to a new trial in a three-hour chamber session, where the flood of attorneys appeared in behalf of the condemned youth. 11-11-47

CONFESSION BY BEATING

Solicitor General Paul Webb of Fulton County and an assistant represented the state in opposing the motion for a new trial. Mangum earlier had taken the stand along with several witnesses and testified that he was beaten by police officers and beleivel that the confession he signed was a means of "getting bond." He declared that he could not read and write.

CIVIL RIGHTS INVOLVED

Defense Attorneys maintained that Mangum's constitutional rights were violated by the manner in which a confession introduced as Court trial was obtained and by the fact that he did not have adequate counsel.

NEW TRIAL DENIED

After denying the motion for a new trial, Judge Scarlett also overruled a motion for a writ of supersedas which would have restrained execution until the case was appealed to a higher court.

Judge Scarlett ruled that the counsel for Mongum was comprised of four attorneys, was adequate and that testimony failed to reveal that the confession was obtained under duress. 30e(2) Ga., Tue.

NEWSPAPERMAN TESTIFIES

An Atlanta newspaperman, Keeler MaCartney, who appeared as a state witness testified that he recorded Mangum's confession for Atlanta police and no force was used. 11-11-47

The case came before Judge Scarlett because Reidsville is in the jurisdiction of the federal court for the Southern district of Georgia where Mangum is imprisoned. Among the youth's defense attorneys were Gordon A. Smith, S. S. Robinson, and Alton Milam, who testified that he was appointed by the court to defend the accused youth only two days before the trial began and that he entered the court room without an investigation of the case. He declared that two other attorneys named for the defense had been admitted to the bar only a

7558

Negro GI's Rape Conviction Grossly Unjust, Says NAACP

30e(2) Germany

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y. Wed. 7-9-47

The NAACP's legal department has submitted to the Secretary of War a petition for clemency in behalf of Calvin J. Baker, a Negro soldier who is serving life for allegedly raping a German woman. Pvt. Bker, formerly of the 3122 Qurtermaster Service Company, was tried and convicted by a general court-martial at Ausberg, Germany, June 9, 1945, for violation of the 92d Article of War.

The German woman, Frau Anna Egner, claimed that Baker was one of two Negro soldiers who forced her to submit her favors.

The NAACP brief quoting from the court-martial record shows that Baker was not positively identified by either the woman or three prosecution witnesses; that neither he nor a Pvt. Everett were near at the time and place of the alleged crime; and that a crime had not been proven as a matter of law.

Baker admitted to having intercourse with the woman but steadfastly contended she had been agreeable to his advances. He had no knowledge of her affairs with two other soldiers, he said.

The NAACP brief reminds the Secretary of War that the conviction was based upon the testimony of German citizens who were "inflicted" with the Nazi teachings of German Ayran racial superiority, particularly over persons of color. This the brief declared was accepted instead of the word of American soldiers who testified in Baker's behalf. Wed. 7-9-47

"To say that this is one of the most grossly unjust cases that has ever been brought to the attention of the American public . . . would be an understatement of fact," NAACP attorneys Franklin H. William and Thurgood Marshall declare.

"Recently much criticism has been leveled at our system of military justice, especially as it is dispensed to Negro soldiers. Such criticism, in this case, we feel, would be justified," they said.

The NAACP is urging that the Secretary of War grant Baker an opportunity to re-enlist in the service and to earn an honorable discharge. Wed. 7-9-47

Ex-GI's Sentence Reduced 7 Years

30e(2)

Chicago Defender

WASHINGTON—The NAACP has been informed by the War Department that as a result of consideration of a petition for clemency which was submitted on behalf of Calvin Baker, former serviceman tried by general court-martial at Augsburg, Germany, on June 9, 1945, his sentence of confinement has been reduced from 25 years to 18 years.

Private Baker was tried for alleged violations of the 92nd and 93rd Articles of War—rape and assault with intent to do bodily harm. Chicago Def. Sat. 8-30-47

30e(2) 1947 Indiana

7559

Rape-Slayer Gets Chair In Fort Wayne Deaths

(30e(2)) Louisville, Ky. Courier-Journal

Fort Wayne, Ind., Oct. 27 (AP)—Circuit Judge William H. Schannen today sentenced Ralph W. Lobaugh to die in the electric chair at the State Prison after the 30-year-old former Kokomo factory worker pleaded guilty to a charge of killing three Fort Wayne women.

Judge Schannen set February 9, 1948, as the date for Lobaugh's execution. Lobaugh received the sentence calmly. Tues.

Before the judge imposed sentence, Deputy Prosecutor Chester M. Lincoln asked: "Now, Ralph, you realize the seriousness of this. Did you murder those three young women?" 10-28-47

Plea Unexpected.

"Yes, I did," Lobaugh replied in a firm tone.

Lobaugh's plea was unexpected, because a sanity hearing for him had been set for December 9.

The three rape-slayings occurred during a 13-month period in 1944 and 1945. The victims were Wilhelma Haaga, 38; Anna Kuzeff, 22, and Dorothea Howard, 32.

Lobaugh has been in custody since June 10 when he walked into a Kokomo police station and admitted the slayings because he had received a letter from his mother stating she disowned him.

RALPH W. LOBAUGH
Admits killing three women.

Denies Clemency to Killer of 3 Women

Daily Worker Tue. 12-16-47

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 15 (UP).—Gov. Ralph F. Gates today denied clemency to Ralph W. Lobaugh, Kokomo factory worker sentenced to die Feb. 9 for the sex slaying of three women, after the condemned man recommended that mercy not be granted him. Tue.

Lobaugh sent a telegram during the clemency commission hearing last Friday, Gates said. 30e(2)

"I am not guilty," the telegram read, "but am willing to die for somebody else. The truth will never be known. Thank you kindly. Sincerely yours." Tue. 12-16-47

2 Soldiers Get Life Sentences for Rape

Black Dispatch
30e(2) Oklahoma City

KOBE, Japan, June —(NNPA)—A general court martial, which convened here May 14, sentenced two soldiers to life imprisonment at hard labor and another enlisted man to twenty-five years imprisonment for their part in a seven-month crime wave, including robbery and rape. 30e(2)

Pvt. Herman Major, 2100 Fifth avenue, New York City was found guilty on four charges of robbery.

Pfc. Melvin Maddox, 15 Crawford place, Atlanta, and Pvt. Frank B. Robinson, 807 Saulineir street, Houston, Texas, were jointly convicted of four different cases of the robbery of Japanese goods, and one charge of rape.

The three men also were found guilty on charges of assault. Sat. 6-7-47

The trio along with two Japanese stooges were apprehended by military police in April. Their Japanese confederates were turned over to the Japanses authorities for trial.

Found Guilty Of Japan Crime

30e(2) Japan
Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

HEADQUARTERS EIGHT ARMY Yokohoma, Japan —(NNPA)—Private Willie James, 19, of Chadbourne, North Carolina, attached unassigned to Headquaters and Headquarters Company of the Fourth Replacement Depot at Zama, has been sentenced to death by a general courts martial which found him guilty of charges of raping Mrs. Masanaru Asanuma, a Japanese woman, who lives on a houseboat on one of Yokohoma's river canals. Thurs. 7-17-47

The sentence is subject to review by Lieutenant General Robert L. Eichelberger, commanding general of the Eight Army.

Testimony revealed that on October 13, 1946, James formerly of Company K of the 24th Infantry Regiment at Gifu, entered the houseboat belonging to Mr. Asanuma without invitation and threatened him with a knife. He later violated Mrs. Asanuma while threatening her with a knife.

Psychiatric examinations of James caused the delay in the trial. Thurs. 7-17-47

GIs In Japan

30e(2)

Sentenced For Robbery, Rape

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 6-7-47

KOBE, Japan—(NNPA)—A general court-martial, which convened here May 14, sentenced two soldiers to life imprisonment at hard labor and another enlisted man to 25 years' imprisonment for their part in a seven-month crime wave, including robbery and rape.

Pvt. Herman Major, 2100 Fifth ave., New York City, was found guilty on four charges of robbery.

Pfc. Melvin Maddox, 15 Crawford place, Atlanta, and Pvt. Frank B. Robinson, 807 Saulineir st., Houston, Tex., were jointly convicted of four different cases of the robbery of Japanese goods, and one charge of rape.

The three men also were found guilty on charges of assault.

The trio, along with two Japanese stooges, were apprehended by military police in April. Their Japanese confederates were turned over to the Japanese authorities for trial.

The trio's conviction and sentences are subject to review by Brig. Gen. Robert W. Crichlow, commanding general of Kobe Base, and higher military authorities.

Death For GI In Rape Case

30e(2) Japan
Chicago Defender

Eighth Army General To Review Sentence

Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 7-19-47

HEADQUARTERS, EIGHTH ARMY, Yokohoma, Japan—(NNPA)—Pvt. Willie James, 19, of Chadbourne, N.C., attached unassigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Fourth Replacement Depot at Zama, has been sentenced to death by a general courts martial which found him guilty of charges of raping Mrs. Masanaru Asanuma, a Japanese woman, who lives on a houseboat on one of Yokohoma's river canals.

The sentence is subject to review by Lieut. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, commanding general of the Eighth Army. Sat. 7-19-47

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Psychiatric examinations of James caused the delay in the trial.

GI Draws Life Term for Rape

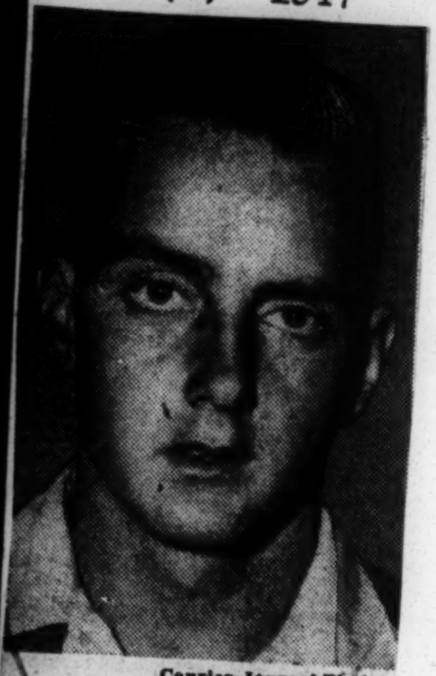
30e(2) Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

TOKYO, Japan, Nov. 18 (UP).—Pfc. Duane E. Cook, 18, Gaylord, Mich., was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment at hard labor for the rape of a 14-year-old Japanese girl. 11-19-47. wed.

The court martial conviction is ject to review by Maj. Gen. Wil- C. Chase, Commanding Gen- of the First Cavalry Division.

30e(2) 1947

7561



Courier-Journal Photo.

IRA LEE WELCH

Jury Takes But 55 Minutes To Give Life In Rape Case

30e(2) KM

COURIER-JOURNAL

Ira Lee Welch, 19, Camp Taylor, Is Sentenced For Attack On Girl, 17, After 2-Day Trial

LOUISVILLE, KY.

Ira Lee Welch, 19, was convicted yesterday of raping a 17-year-old girl and sentenced to life imprisonment by a Criminal Court jury which deliberated 55 minutes.

The Commonwealth did not ask the maximum penalty for rape, death, but had polled the jurors on their willingness to sentence Welch to "life without parole." The jury refused to include the condition and he wil be eligible for parole in seven years. 10-1-47

The verdict came at 6:25 p.m. at the end of two days of testimony and argument. The Commonwealth charged that Welch, of 103 Reid, Camp Taylor, was ringleader of four boys who forced their attentions on the girl in a parked automobile. Wed.

Welch admitted that he twice had intimate relations with the girl, but said she gave her consent. He said she also agreed to the relations with the other three.

Brent C. Overstreet, attorney for Welch, said he would appeal. the handsome youth took the verdict stoically.

Others to be tried later on the same indictment are John Rice, 17, of 3812 Fincastle; George D. Metcalf, Jr., 2706 Pindell, and Raymond Murray, 16, Poplar Level Road. 30e(2)

The trial's concluding arguments were heard by an audience sprinkled with bobby-soxers and boys about the same age. Schoolbooks were lying on many courtroom benches as the owners crowded toward the front to hear testimony.

KM

The incident occurred July 10. The girl said she met Welch and the others at the Fincastle Community Building and accepted a ride home. She said she was dazed and exhausted by the experience and did not recall all the happenings. The stories of the boys added up to seven separate acts.

Sturgis Father Acquitted On 4 Charges of Rape

30e(2)

Special to The Courier-Journal.

Morganfield, Ky., Oct. 23.—A Union Circuit Court jury today acquitted Truman Hazel, 63, Sturgis, on four charges of rape brought by his four daughters. At a previous trial in the case the jury was unable to agree.

Kentucky

Man Is Convicted In Rape-Slaying

30e(2)

Courier-Journal, Louisville

Death Penalty Fixed for Williams By Jury Deliberating 8 Minutes

Wed. 10-15-47.

By the Associated Press.

Somerset, Ky., Oct. 14.—A Circuit Court jury deliberated only 8 minutes tonight before convicting Luther Williams, 28-year-old Negro, of the rape-murder charge of Mrs. Ada Hughes, 50. It fixed his sentence at death.

Before the verdict was announced, Circuit Judge Edwin R. Denney instructed the courtroom against any demonstration and there was none.

Judge Denney said he would pronounce sentence later.

The Commonwealth had completed its case early tonight and the defense offered no testimony. Arguments also were waived and the jury of Mercer County men began deliberations after time out for supper.

26 Called In Afternoon.

The commonwealth called 26 witnesses this afternoon. Among them were Williams' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams, and his sister, Lou.

All three testified that Luther went to the Williams home early on the night of September 14—the night Mrs. Hughes was found unconscious and near death in the back yard of her home. They said he had a .22-caliber rifle and asked for shells, saying he was going hunting.

Told Nose Bled On Shirt.

The family members related that Williams returned between 11 p.m. and midnight, without the gun but with bloodspots on his shirt. They said he told them his nose had bled on the shirt. They said he asked his sister to burn it because "something has happened and they might pin it on me."

The sister said she refused and that Luther himself burned the shirt. Then, she testified, he put on a clean shirt and was lying on a bed when police arrived a few minutes laetr.

Pieces of a rifle were found beside Mrs. Hughes.

Rifle Blood-Stained.

Another witness, Peter Duncan, special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said he examined pieces of the rifle and found stains on them to be human blood. Strands of hair removed from the rifle, Duncan testified, were "similar" to the hair of Mrs. Hughes. 10-15-47

Chief of Police Herbert Norfleet related that Williams signed voluntarily a statement he had robbed, raped, and beaten the 50-year-old Mrs. Hughes.

Since then, however, Williams has repudiated the statement. He entered a plea of not guilty before his trial began today before the jury, after the regular panel of Pulaski County citizens was exhausted.

Husband Guilty Of Aiding Brother Rape His Wife

COURIER-JOURNAL

30e(2)

Paintsville, Ky., Dec. 3 (AP)—Eddie Castle, 28, was convicted by a Johnson County Circuit Court jury today of aiding and abetting in the rape of his wife and sentenced to 18 years in the penitentiary at LaGrange. Thurs.

Commonwealth's Attorney J. B. Clark, who termed the case the only one of its kind in state history to his knowledge, presented the 28-year-old wife and mother of Castle's four children as the only witness for the State.

Castle, his 18-year-old brother, Mathan, and a cousin, Chester Castle, testified for the defense.

The brothers did not deny the accusation that Mathan had sexual relations with his sister-in-law, for which he paid $5 to Eddie, but they denied that she was forced by her husband to submit. Louisville, Ky.

Mathan Castle, charged with rape, will be tried in February

7561

High Court Upholds Death Sentence For Rape-Slayer of Pulaski Woman

30e(2)

Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

Sat.-12-20-47

Fair Trial Given, Ruling Declares

Frankfort, Ky, Dec. 19 (AP)—The Court of Appeals upheld today the death penalty given Luther Williams, 28-year-old Negro, for the murder of Mrs. Ada Hughes, 55, in Pulaski County last September.

The opinion said Mrs. Hughes, a white woman, was bludgeoned with a rifle butt and raped. Williams confessed the crime. "This young Negro viciously, cruelly, and brutally violated the law of civilized man," the opinion said. Courier-Journal

The jury which gave him the death penalty came from another County and Williams got a fair trial while police patroled the Courthouse to prevent mob violence, the ruling stated.

Louisville, Ky.

Covington Workers Win.

Before adjourning until its spring term begins January 5, the Commonwealth's highest court also: Sat. 12-20-47

1. Affirmed Kenton Circuit Court's ruling that four Covington waterworks employees were discharged illegally in January, 1944, and were entitled to $3,645 each from then until reinstatement two years later, less whatever they had earned elsewhere in that time. They were dismissed without the trials required by the City's civil-service regulations. The four and amounts they get are: Frank J. Crolley, $3,645; John M. Smith, $1,634.30; George Gronefeld, $363.30, and Robert J. Clark, $39.85. It was explained Crolley's age prevented his getting other work. Sat. 12-20-47

McCracken Tax Upheld.

2. Upheld the State Tax Commission and McCracken County in imposing property taxes on two firms operating river boats and barges in transporting petroleum products and approved the assessments. The opinion, affirming Franklin Circuit Court, said the firms were liable for taxes in McCracken because their headquarters were there. Walter G. Hougland & Sons was assssed $250,000 and the other firm, known simply as Houghland's, $150,000. The appeals were consolidated. 12-20-47

3. Declared the State must pay for upkeep of a life-term convict adjudged insane and sent to Central State Hospital, Lakeland. Oscar Brock, given a life term on murder conviction in Leslie County in 1935, was adjudged insane and sent to Lakeland in 1937. He later was held eligible to receive a $13,000 war-risk-insurance policy left his late father, a World War I veteran. The State then sued to collect the $30 a month it charges mental patients who have property. Several issues were raised, but the opinion, affirming Franklin Circuit Court, said decision was reached solely on Brock's status as a convict.

4. Refused to stop the State Motor Transportation Division from acting on applications of the Leitchfield Transfer Company of Leitchfield to operate trucks betwen Brownsville and Clarkston and Brownsville and Leitchfield. The Majors Truck Lines of Caneyville opposed the applications on grounds it was serving that territory. The ruling left the division in position to act on the applications. 12-20-47

Salary Case Is Set.

5. Fixed January 30 at 10 a.m. for oral arguments in the State's appeal from Franklin Circuit Court's ruling that Beckham A. Robertson of Owensboro is entitled to $10,826.05 in fees and salaries accruing to his office of Commonwealth's Attorney for the time he spent in the Navy in World War II. He started his six-year term in January, 1940, went into service in August, 1942, and returned in September, 1946.

6. Granted a plea of the Kentucky Utilities Company that it have until February 5 to file a brief in its appeal from McCracken Circuit Court's ruling that the City of Paducah purchase legally the K.U. electric plant there. The City seeks to operate it with T.V.A. power.

All White Jury Finds Cab Driver Guilty Of Rape; Gets Life In Pen

Louisiana Weekly
30e(2) La., New Orleans, La.
Sat. 2-1-47

An all-white jury deliberated only twenty minutes in Judge Fred A. Oser's Criminal Court last Friday in bringing a guilty verdict without capital punishment against Lionel Briscoe, a former Taxi Cab driver, for the criminal attack of Miss Andry Fedele, 28, 1914 Mandeville Street last October. Briscoe was sentenced Monday to serve life in the Louisiana penitentiary.

Briscoe was captured following the attack, by 2nd precinct police with the aid of a tenant of the Calliope Street project who overheard several men discussing the splitting of money under his window the night of the alleged rape.

According to information received from Assistant D. A. Joseph F. Monie, Miss Fedele left an uptown night club last October about 9:00 o'clock on a Tuesday night and entered a cab. When the cab reached the corner of LaSalle and Washington Ave., two other men got in and grabbed her, forcing her to lie on the floor of the cab.

The cab proceeded back to Calliope Street and Galvez where she was forced to get out and go behind a billboard sign on Calliope Street.

30e(2) La.

The three men then took turns in attacking her while one stood out by the cab and watched.

At one time, during the rape one man was left with her while the other two went over to the Calliope project and began to divide the money they had taken from her pocketbook. They also took her watch off of her arm when she was in the cab.

While the two men were discussing the dividing of the money under a window in the project a tenant overheard the conversation. He called the police and then went downstairs with his gun and the three men began to run back Calliope Street.

The police arrived on the scene and helped to give chase all the way back to S. Broad Street. Two of the men ran across the I. C. Railway tracks and escaped, but Briscoe was captured as he attempted to run into the weeds by the A & P Warehouse.

Miss Fedele positively identified Briscoe as one of the men who had attacked her. Briscoe would not reveal the identity of the other two men who are still at large. Sat. 2-1-47

Briscoe's sentence marks the first time since the new administration taken over the reigns of the criminal court, that a Negro has received a life sentence for such an offense. Briscoe was carried to the state penitentiary Tuesday morning by the criminal sheriff.

Rape in Dixie worse than 7 kinds of turtle meat!

Los Angeles, Calif.
30e(2)
Tribune Sat. 7-12-47

BATON ROUGE, La.—Proving again that the rape of a southern white woman is worse than 7 kinds of turtle meat, Jesse Perkins had the dubious distinction of being the latest Negro condemned to death for the crime in Dixie this week.

Perkins will die next Friday for rape of a Baton Rouge white woman. Gov. Jimmie Davis signed the death warrent after an appeal was denied by the State Supreme Court. Sat. 7-12-47

Perkins Executed Dies Denying Guilt

30e(2) La. The Informer
Houston, Texas Sat. 7-

BATON ROUGE, La. — Jesse Perkins, 49-year-old resident of East Baton Rouge parish, who was convicted of raping a white woman here last year, was put to death in the state-owned portable electric chair here Friday denying his guilt to the very end.

Seated in the chair, Perkins said in a steady voice, "I am not guilty but I'm willing and ready to go."

Several ministers spent the morning with the condemned man.

The executioner threw the switch at 12:01 p.m. Friday and after the first shock, Dr. J. W. Watson and Dr. J. J. Noto examined Perkins and reported that he was dead. The chest straps were replaced and a second shock administered. Jessie Jerkins was pronounced dead at 12:06 p.m. Sat 7-26-47

Some 50 persons were in the jailhouse building when the execution was conducted and more than 100 gathered outside. There were no outbursts.

Perkins had fought the case through the district and supreme courts of Louisiana with no success. He was convicted of criminally assaulting a white woman in Bogan's Pastures, in the outlying section of town, on the night of June 21 1946 after coming upon her and a male companion lying on a blanket. . . . .

Attorneys Louis Berry and A. P. Tureaud, called in to defend Perkins, sought to have his indictment quashed on the grounds that Negroes were not adequately represented in East Baton Rouge parish juries. Their motion was overruled and Perkins was tried, convicted and sentenced. The case was appealed to the supreme court and Perkins was again denied.

As a last resort, appeal for commutation was made to the state board of pardons but was denied several weeks ago. Houston, Texas

The sheriff was quoted as saying that Perkins was calm immediately preceding the execution date but "three or four weeks ago he gave us a lot of trouble."

Perkins' execution brought to the minds of Baton Rouge resdients the case of Dave Johnson, 34-year-old New Orleans man, who was hanged here in March, 1938 for the raping of an LSU co-ed.

Sat. 7-26-47

Johnson's execution also aroused much curiousity and more than 200 persons witnessed the hanging.

For the first time since public executions ceased in Louisiana three women witnessed the hanging. The women were in a crowd of 200 persons which had gathered in the corridors of the jail, separated by canvas from the execution chamber. They had gathered there not expecting to see the actual execution but to watch Johnson as he marched up the steps of the trap to pay with his life for twice raping the white co-ed on January 31 of that year. 30e(2) La.

Just before Johnson dropped to his death, Sheriff Newton DeLebretton and a deputy removed the canvas which had cut off the death chamber from the view of the crowd.

The Informer

A few seconds later Johnson's body plunged down on the rope and brought up with the cracking of his neck at exactly 12:06 p.m. and at the same time a photographer's flashlight went off causing a near panic among the 200 unexpected witnesses.

Since that time the mode of execution has been changed for Louisiana and the portable electric chair is brought to the various parish seats whenever persons convicted of capital crimes are to be put to death.

7544

Negro Pleads 'Confusion' But Sentenced To Death

Birmingham, Ala.
30e(2) 3-12-47
Birmingham News

ELKTON, Md., March 12—(P)—Death on the gallows for raping a nurse today faced 20-year-old William E. Copper, a Negro whose attorney told a three-judge court the war veteran from Easton, Md., had become "confused" by absence of racial differences in Europe.

The judges in announcing the hanging sentence termed the assembly on a 25-year-old Easton memorial hospital nurse last Jan. 30 a crime "so brutal as to warrant imposition of the highest penalty provided by law." Wed 3-12-47

Atty. Zebulon H. Strafford in an impassioned plea for Copper's life introduced evidence that the defendant, discharged from the Army Feb. 5, had lived with a white woman in France, and with another in Germany. Wed 3-12-47

Man To Gallows In Death Of Nurse

Atlanta, Ga.
30e(2) md.
Daily Worker

BALTIMORE—(SNS)— William E. Copper, 20, walked to the gallows Thursday night for assault of a nurse about five months ago. Sat. 3-29-47 Thus ended the life of the youthful handyman who had to be rushed 116 miles from Easton to jail at Bel Air., Md., when mob tension was reaching its peak in the community. Copper was convicted March 30.

White Rapist of Negro Mother Found Guilty

The Call
30e(2) md.

BALTIMORE. — (ANP) — After only 30 minutes deliberation, an all-white jury broke a precedent in the Hartford county circuit court last week when it returned a verdict of guilty against Charles W. Redder, white, charged with raping Mrs. Mary C. Lance on Nov. 13, 1946. Mrs. Lance, the mother of four children, was five month's pregnant when she was accosted and forced at the point of a pistol to submit to Redder's demands. State's Atty. D. Paul McNabb broke down the defense alibi witnesses in a skillful cross examination.

On Wednesday afternoon, No. 13, Mrs. Lance was returning from Hopkins hospital where she was receiving care at the maternity clinic in anticipation of a baby in February. As she was walking along the road, a car, driven by a white man, stopped beside her. Brandishing a gun, the man ordered her to get in and keep her mouth shut. Fri. 3-21-47

She was driven to a wooded spot, forced from the car, criminally attacked, and then ordered back into the car. Upon reaching the main road she was pushed out. The man turned off his lights and drove away. Mrs. Lance ran to the nearest farm house and asked to be driven home. Kansas City, Mo.

Sheriff Gambel picked up Redder on the description given by Mrs. Lance. Redder spoke with an impediment and was postively identified by the victim in a police line up.

The defense tried to establish an alibi that Redder was at the Lancaster store when the crime occurred. Fri. 3-21-47

Legal action was begun by the local branch of the NAACP. According to Addison V. Pinkney, executive secretary, this is the first time an all-white jury has found a white man guilty of rape on a colored woman in Maryland.

Lane Denies Stay; Youth, 20, Hangs

30e(2) Md.
Afro-American 1-25-47 Sat.
Baltimore, Md.

BALTIMORE

Last-minute efforts of the NAACP to have Gov. Preston W. Lane grant a stay of execution for Charles Lee Carmen, 20, failed Thursday and the youth was hanged by the neck until dead in the execution chambers of Maryland State Penitentiary at 12.01 this Friday morning.

Appearing on the gallows a few seconds after midnight, Carmen never glanced at the 50 witnesses in the death chamber as he was half-led and half pushed towards the fatal trap doors. He stared at the doors as if in a trance and showed no sign of emotion.

Hurtling through space to eternity, the doomed youth's body whirled dizzily as it reached the end of the rope. A prison official stepped forward and grasped the feet to stop the spinning figure.

His grip failed, however, to conceal the quivering and spasmodic motions of a body reluctantly giving up life. The knees drew up, the shoulders shrugged several times; then it remained still.

A stony silence settled over the on-lookers. A few of them removed their hats. Others twitched nervously, their faces and necks turning red. An AFRO reporter was the only non-white person in the death chamber.

Carmen was pronounced dead at 12:16 a.m. 1-25-47 Sat.

Following the sickening clap of the trap doors, only the intonations of the priest praying with four other men in the death row interrupted the eerie silence.

Carmen paid with his life for alleged criminal assault at Elkton, Md., four months ago. Evidence produced by the State showed that Carmen was serving a 3-year sentence for burglary and working with a road gang when the incident occurred.

Assigned to the job of flagging cars on the highway under repair, Carmen excused himself for a few minutes and was convicted of committing the crime during this interval.

The woman picked Carmen from a line-up and he was sentenced to death in Bel Air County Court on Oct. 28. He was committed to the death row the same day.

The NAACP wired Gov. Lane Thursday, requesting a stay of execution on the contention that six prisoners were prepared to testify that Carmen was in their presence when the attack was supposed to have occurred.

The governor replied by telegram a few hours before the execution that Assistant State's Attorney. Hall Hammond had interviewed the six men concerned on his orders, but could uncover no information to justify a stay of execution.

Mrs. Odell Wilson, 16 S. Bethel St., mother of the condemned man, visited him shortly before he was hanged. Mrs. Christine Warren, Carmen's sister, also visited him in the death house yesterday.

The impending execution had no effect on Carmen's appetite, prison officials reported. He ordered and ate a hearty meal of two pork chops, green peas, potatoes and gravy, milk and chocolate cake.

He was the first man to be hanged in Maryland this year and the first under Gov. Lane's administration. Four others, two of whom are white, remain in death row.

White Man Found Guilty Of Raping Young Mother

30e(2) Md. Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

BALTIMORE — (ANP) — After only 30 minutes deliberation, an all-white jury broke a precedent in the Hartford County Circuit Court last week when it returned a verdict of guilty against Charles W. Redder, white, charged with raping Mrs. Mary C. Lance on Nov. 13, 1946.

Mrs. Lance, the mother of four children, was five months' pregnant when she was accosted and forced at the point of a pistol to submit to Redder's demands. State's Atty. D. Paul McNabb broke down the defense alibi witnesses in a skillful cross examination.

On Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 13, Mrs. Lance was returning from Hopkins Hospital where she was receiving care at the maternity clinic in anticipation of a baby in February. As she was walking along the road, a car, driven by a white man, stopped beside her, Brandishing a gun, the man ordered her to get in and keep her mouth shut.

She was driven to a wooded spot, forced from the car, criminally attacked, and then ordered back into the car. Upon reaching the main road she was pushed out. The man turned off his lights and drove away. Mrs. Lance ran to the nearest farm house and asked to be driven home.

Sheriff Gambel picked up Redder on the description given by Mrs. Lance. Redder spoke with an impediment and was positively identified by the victim in a police lineup.

The defense tried to establish an alibi that Redder was at the Lancaster store when the crime occurred. 3-22-47

Legal action was begun by the local branch of the NAACP. According to Addison V. Pinkney, executive secretary, this is the first time that an all-white jury has found a white man guilty of rape on a colored woman in Maryland.

30e(2) 1947

Maryland

7563

2 In Princess Anne Sentenced For Rape

30e(2)

Journal-Guide

Norfolk, Va.

10-11-47

NORFOLK—Charged with rape of a Princess Anne girl, George Barron and John Battle were sentenced to 20 and seven years, respectively, in the Circuit Court of Princess Anne county Sept. 30.

7565

White Miss. Vet Gets Life Term for Assault on 5-Year-old Girl

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
30e(2)
Sat. 3-22-47

LAUREL, Miss. — A jury on Mar. 11 found LaVerne Yarbrough, 24-year-old World War II veteran, white, guilty of criminally assaulting a five-year-old girl and fixed his punishment at life imprisonment.

Judge F. Burkitt Collins immediately sentenced him to the State prison at Parchman. The girl identified Yarbrough as her attacker when called to testify. The veteran denied the charges.

Suspect, 17, Defended by Bilbo's Lawyer

Afro-American
30e(2) Miss.

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — Sat. 11-29-47 Forrest B. Jackson, who ran on a white supremacy platform for the Senate seat held by the late Theodore G. Bilbo, last Friday pleaded in the U.S. Supreme Court for the reversal of a Mississippi Supreme Court decision affirming the conviction of a 17-year-old boy.

Mr. Jackson, who was Bilbo's lawyer, contended that the Mississippi high court erred in admitting into evidence a confession allegedly extorted from Albert Lee by duress, fear, threats and physical violence. Lee was given 18 years for attempted criminal assault. Baltimore, Md.

In its opinion, the Mississippi Supreme Court said that if the testimony were true, it would receive that court's condemnation, adding that if the youth had not denied making any confession at all the court would have reversed the conviction because his testimony was wholly undisputed.

Appeal 3 Negroes' Conviction For Rape That Never Happened

30e(2)
Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.
Sat. 9-6-47

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People yesterday engaged council to appeal the conviction of three Mississippi Negro youths, victims of a rape frame-up. The youths, Thomas and James Monroe Tingle and Henry C. Smith, all of Decatur, were accused of the attempted rape of three white girls in Little Rock, Miss. on the night of July 29. They were sentenced to two years in prison.

The youths testified that they had been brutally beaten by police and forced to "confess." Their counsel, J. Marshall Carr of Newton, produced bloodstained clothing as evidence of the beatings.

Several white witnesses testified that the attempted rape never occurred.

Subsequently the jury split, voting eight for acquittal and four for conviction. A second trial on Aug. 29, convicted them on the same evidence. 9-6-47

The NAACP pointed out that the extraordinarily low sentence lends further basis to its contention that the youths are victims of the traditional Southern frameup.

Mississippian Gets Life For Raping Girl, 5

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
30e(2)
Sat. 3-29-47

LAUREL, Miss.—In a two-day trial here last week a Jones county white jury found a 24-year-old white man guilty of the rape of a 5-year-old colored child and fixed his punishment at life in the state penitentiary at Parchman.

Presiding Judge F. Burkitt Collins last Tuesday immediately sentenced the man, Laverne Yarborough, an ex-soldier, to the state prison. The crime was committed last December 6. Defender

The little girl, daughter of a minister here, identified Yarborough as her attacker at the trial. In taking the stand in his own defense, the white man denied the charges. 3-29-47

Faces Death Sentence In Rape Case

30e(2)
Chicago Defender
Chicago Ill

VICKSBURG, Miss.—A Warren county circuit court jury here required only 15 minutes last Monday to return a rape verdict in a case involving attempted rape — with a mandatory death sentence imposed. Sat. 3-29-47

As a consequence 19-year-old Rufus Willis will have the date of his execution set by Circuit Judge R. B. Anderson at the close of the present session of court next week. 3-29-47

Willis was convicted of raping a white woman near the Hillhouse community in Coahoma county last Sept. 27. In view of possible mob violence and a threatened attack upon him by the woman's husband at Clarksdale, a change of venue was granted to the Warren county circuit court. 3-29-47

The all-white jury was selected for the trial shortly before noon Monday, testimony was concluded by 4 o'clock and the verdict brought in 15 minutes later.

Willis took the stand in his own behalf and admitted stopping the woman on the highway and attempting to rape her in the vehicle in which he was riding, but said he failed to physically assault her.

30e(2) 1947

Missouri

7564

Negro Dies In Lethal Chamber For Attack

[illegible]
Birmingham, Ala.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 24 —(AP)—Marshall Perkins, a 59-year-old Negro convicted of raping a 13-year-old white girl, died in the Missouri state penitentiary gas chamber early today, protesting his innocence to the end. 30e(2)

"I never raped nobody," he told Penal Director Thomas E. Whitecotton. "I wouldn't die lying. God knows I'm innocent." Fri. 1-24-47

He continued to talk and pray after the heavy door of the gas chamber had clanged shut.

1-24-47

Perkins was convicted in Kansas City of assaulting Gladys Jeffries after stopping her while she was on her way home from a movie. Both the girl and her parents later identified Perkins as the assailant.

JURY FREES MAN OF RAPE CHARGE ON 3 GRADE SCHOOL GIRLS; DELIBERATE 6 HOURS

Plaindealer - Fri. 3-7-47
Kansas City, Kansas

Leroy R. Kirby, 66 year old white man, was acquitted Saturday, Marach 1, by a Wyandotte County District Court jury of charges of statutory rape against three Negro girls. 30e(2) Mo.

The jury returned its verdict to Judge Willard M. Benton after deliberating more than six hours.

Kirby, who lives at 3524 Wyandotte Street, Kansas City, Mo., was arrested in May, 1946, on complaint of the girl's parents. He was then living at the old Lutz residence, Seventh and Washington Blvd., Kansas City, Kansas. Plaindealer

The trial opened Monday morning, February 24 and continued through Saturday, March 1. Kirby, taking the stand in his behalf, denied the accusations brought out in the testimony of the girls. The alledeged offenses occured in late September, 1945 and continued through April, 1946. 3-7-47

Nine-Year-Old Girl's Attacker Gets Two Years

St. Louis Argus
St. Louis, Mo.
Fri. 2-28-47

After nearly two days of trial, a jury in Circuit Court No. 11, Wednesday, found William Smith, 46, 3954 West Belle place, guilty of criminal attack on a nine-year-old girl. He was sentenced to two years in the Missouri State Penitentiary. 30e(2) Mo.

The state presented six witnesses who testified they saw the 'act' being committed from an opening near the top of the door leading into Smith's room. The plaintiff positively identified Smith from the witness stand as her attacker and outlined his actions which she said started August 6, of last year and concluded on the 8 of the same month. She intimated that Smith assaulted her four times during that period. Smith denied the child's charges and attempted to repudiate the rest of the state's witnesses by saying that they were trying to 'frame' him because he 'stooled' to his landlady on them. Fri. 2-28-47

Asst. Circuit Attorney Bantle made a vigorous plea for the maximum penalty. Counsel for defense, Clark Frazier, closed his case with an eloquent plea to the jury asking for the acquittal of his client.

7566

ATTACKER OF WOMEN SENTENCED TO PRISON

30e(2) N.Y.

Willie Thompson, 25-year-old fugitive from a Florida chain gang and the admitted attacker of several women who were passengers in taxicabs he had stolen, was sentenced yesterday by General Sessions Judge Jacob Gould Schurman Jr. to twenty-five years to life in state prison. Wed. 4-9-47

The sentence came less than seven weeks after he had been arrested following the brutal assault on an actress in a current Broadway show. A grand jury returned a fifteen-count indictment against Thompson but he was allowed to plead guilty on March 18 to robbery in the first degree to cover the information. New York N.

The record that Judge Schurman had as he pronounced sentence showed that Thompson, who had lived at 805 St. Nicholas Avenue, had been convicted six times for felonies. Wed-4-9-47

His Legal Aid Society attorney, Anthony J. Marra, told the court that Thompson realized he was a fourth offender when he had pleaded guilty and that he threw himself on the mercy of the court.

Judge Schurman retorted, "I cannot show much mercy in a case as horrible as this."

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15 Year Old Rape-Killer Gets 20 Years

30e(2) N.Y. Sat. 5-10-47
The Fla. Tattler

New York . . (CNS) . . 15 year old John Grate was convicted here by second degree murder in the rape-killing of a 4 year old child Sept. 23. He was sentenced to 20 years to life by General Sessions Judge Francis L. Valentin. The court explained why the boy is being sent to prison instead of Warwick State School as the children committed to the school are granted paroles on short time. Jacksonville, Fla.

GIVEN 20-YEAR SENTENCE

NEW YORK — John Grate, 15, of 464 W. 126th St. was sentenced last week to 20 years to life in prison for the assault-murder of 4-year-old Eliza Jones on Sept. 23 in the cellar of her home at 35 W. 116th St. 30e(2) Sat. 4-26-47

War Bride's Attacker Gets Jail

30e(2) N.Y.

Norman Greenberg could have got up to 20 years for his admitted rape of French war bride Mrs. Andree Cropp. PM New York N.Y.

He got off yesterday with an indeterminate term in city jail—it may be as much as three years, but it can be as little as six months.

The 28-year-old Greenberg and his companion, Harry Manesevitz, 28, ran into Mrs. Cropp and her American Army husband, Col. Stanley H. Cropp, in a bar the night of May 25, a few hours after the Cropps had arrived from Europe. Tues. 7-1-47

The four visited a number of bars, then headed back toward Fort Hamilton, where Cropp was stationed. On the way Greenberg decoyed Cropp out of the car and then drove off without him. The rape—which Manesevitz protested and with which he had nothing to do—followed.

At first Greenberg put up a strong front. His original attorney, Harry Elegant, asserted in court May 19 that he would prove that Mrs. Cropp was not an unwilling victim. Then, at the actual trial, on June 10, when Mrs. Cropp was testifying, Greenberg yelled at her:

"You know you're lying!"

Next day Greenberg broke down, confessed his guilt.

So on his guilty plea Greenberg was sentenced yesterday to Riker's Island. Manesevitz, who had no part in the rape, got a suspended sentence. Tues. 7-1-47

Death Sentence Changed to Life

The Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

30e(2) Sat. 4-19-47

RALEIGH, N. C.—Upon the recommendation of trial judge R. Hunt Parker, Gov. R. Gregg Cherry last week commuted the death sentence of Thomas Lewis, 21, to life imprisonment after his conviction of raping Mrs. Willie Mae Johnson, white, during a hitch-hiking episode last July.

Trial Judge Parker passed the death sentence, but upon testimony of witnesses ordered the woman's past checked. Findings given him by investigators revealed that she had a long record of drunkenness and police arrests.

Death Sentences Held Up for Two

30e(2)

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

RALEIGH, N. C. — (NNPA) — Ralph Vernon Litteral of Winston-Salem and Marvin C. Bell of Yadkinville, N. C., who were scheduled to be electrocuted last Saturday for the rape of a 15-year-old high school girl, won the right to live a little longer last Friday when Governor Gregg Cherry granted Litteral a reprieve, and Chief Justice Walter P. Stacy of the North Carolina Supreme Court signed a stay of execution for Bell. Sat. 3-22-47

Litteral last Friday signed a will leaving his brain to Bowman Gray Medical School and his eyes to an agency which might use the corneas to give sight to blind persons.

Sat. 3-8-47

PRISONER SLATED TO DIE IN GAS CHAMBER MAR. 14

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

RALEIGH, N.C. — Unless Governor Cherry intervenes, Otis Ragland will die in the gas chamber at Central Prison Mar. 14 for the confessed rape of a white woman.

Carolinian, 29, Who Put Hand on Woman, Given Year on Road

30e(2)

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Edward Hall, 27, was sentenced to 12 months on the roads last Thursday, after pleading guilty to charges of assaulting a white woman "by putting his hand on her shoulder," in the Recorder's court. Sat. 4-12-47

Det. Sgt. J. T. Rich quoted Hall as saying, "Where I've been I could make dates with white women." Mrs. Earl Carter testified that Hall invited her and Mrs. Gilbert Curry to go with him for a "good time tonight." She added, "He scared me, but didn't hurt me."

N. C.'s Judge Parker

30e(2) N.C.

Sentences Prisoner to Die; Pleads for His Life

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Sat. 2-22-47

By A. M. RIVERA Jr.
(Staff Correspondent)

OXFORD, N. C.—For forty tense hours last week, Superior Court Judge Parker held off sentence for Thomas Lewis, 23, convicted of rape, as agents of the State Bureau of Investigation dug up new evidence. Then the judge gave Lewis the mandatory death sentence, and dramatically sent a three-page letter to Gov. R. Gregg Cherry requesting commuation to life imprisonment.

The jury returned the verdict of "guilty" after hearing the testimony in the case, in which Lewis was charged with twice raping Mrs. Willie Mae Johnson, a white woman, on the night of July 23 last year. She had testified that she was hitch-hiking to Norfolk, Va., from Durham, where she had had an argument with her husband. She said she had asked Lewis to show her where she could best catch a ride, and he directed her to a thicket where he raped her twice.

WOMAN FAINTED

During the harsh cross-examination of the prosecutrix by Defense Attorney C. J. Gates, the woman fainted. Sat. 2-22-47

When the jury returned the verdict Judge Parker electrified the courtroom by immediately recessing the court, and refusing to pass sentence for over forty hours.

During that time the judge, following the lead of defense attorneys, instructed the SBI to go to High Point, N. C., Mrs. Johnson's former home, and make a thorough examination of her criminal record. Further information was also sought on Lewis. The High Point police reported that Mrs. Johnson had a record showing convictions for immoral vagrancy, occupying a room for immoral purposes, and that she had been banned by court order to be seen in Guilford County again. A check-up on Lewis showed five convictions for larceny, and that he had been held for "assault on a female with intent to rape but that the prosecuting witness was bought."

In a melodramatic climax, Judge Parker gave Lewis the mandatory death sentence, but wrote a three-page letter to Governor R. Gregg Cherry, which he read in open court, asking that the sentence be commuted to life imprisonment. A copy of the letter was sent to the Parole Board. Solicitor W. H. Murdock said he also would request executive clemency.

Defense Attorneys E. R. Avant, H. L. Taylor and C. J. Gates noted an appeal. Judge Parker upon reconvening the court after the recess, said that "this case has given me gray hairs overnight."

Convict 2 On Rape Charges

30e(2)

Chicago Ill.

Death, Life Term Sentences Given

Chicago Defender

JACKSON, N. C.—A 6-day special term of the Northampton County Superior Court soothed the mob fury of Rich Square whites last week when one Negro youth was sentenced to death and another was given life imprisonment upon being convicted in a case involving the explosive charge of rape.

The two youths were indicted, tried, convicted and sentenced during a special term of court opening last Monday.

Willie Cherry, 24, will die in the Central Prison gas chamber at Raleigh for the alleged first degree burglary-rape of a Rich Square white woman and James Boone, 21, his alleged accomplice, must spend the rest of his life behind prison bars for his participation in the crime as charged by the state.

The two young men were indicted and tried on two charges each of first degree burglary. Cherry's indictment embodied rape and robbery charges, and Boone's of being an accessory to the extent of having opened the window for Cherry to enter the home and having remained on watch while he was committing the alleged attack and robbing the woman of $15.11.

Grand Jury Action Is Surprise

Journal and Guide

30e(2)

Accused Mobsters Appear Elated Over Findings

Sat. 8-9-47

Norfolk, Va.

Journal and Guide 8/9/47

By P. BERNARD YOUNG JR.
Special to Journal and Guide

JACKSON, N. C.—Godwin Bush, wrongfully accused of attempted rape upon a white Rich Square stenographer—for which accusation he nearly lost his life at the hands of a mob—Tuesday morning at 11:40 left Superior Court here a free man.

Journal and Guide Norfolk, Va.

But a few minutes later, an astonished court-room heard also a not true bill against the seven men accused of kidnaping Bush from the jail here in a pre-dawn abduction on May 23. County Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler, with a disgusted gesture of his arms and in a voice tinged with amazement said to the court simply: "I've nothing further against these men."

"Then they are free to leave the court," replied the judge—who made no comment from the bench on either verdict from the grand jury. 8/9/47

NO DEMONSTRATION IN COURTROOM

There was no demonstration in the courtroom except a slight buzzing of voices. The men accused of being in the mob did not demonstrate, but were visibly elated.

Journal and Guide Norfolk, Va.

Bush was sitting immediately behind three Guide representatives and his face broke immediately into a broad grin. The county sheriff immediately signalled photographers that pictures could be made of Bush. He was immediately surrounded by well wishers including two leading townsmen who have stuck by him throughout his ordeal, the Rev. P. A. Bishop and the Rev. D. A. Johnston.

Following the taking of pictures, Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, said, in a clear and kindly voice: "Godwin Bush, you are a free man, you may leave at will."

30e(2) N.C.

Smiling as would a man who had been living on borrowed time, Bush turned and left the nearly-packed courtroom.

The freed kidnaping defendants were surrounded by their friends and left the courtroom with the expressions of boys who had rifled mother's cookie jar, been caught at it, and forgiven with a maternal pat on the back. 8/9/47

Thus ended a drama of southern justice in a building which several times the day before was proudly heralded as a temple of justice. Norfolk, Va.

Two Men Die In N. C. For Assault

Record

Columbia, S.C. 30e(2)

RALEIGH, N. C., Nov. 14—(UP)—Two tough mountaineers paid with their lives in the gas chamber otday for criminally assaulting a 15-year-old girl in a wild night of terror, and a third rapist died immediately afterward. Fri. 11-14-47

Death Toll 23

Three executions ran the state's death toll for the year to 23, tying a record set in 1936.

Marvin Claude Bell, 34, and Ralph Vernon Litteral, 35, died together in the tiny cyanide-filled chamber for assaulting and slashing the girl and leaving her 100 miles from home.

Willie Little, 43, former Negro prison trusty, followed them into the gas chamber immediately.

Gov. Gregg Cherry declined to intervene in the three death cases after a last-minute personal trip to the prison yesterday to decide for himself if Litteral was sane enough to die.

Had Long Record

Bell, obviously frightened but trying to smile, entered the chamber first at 9:57 a. m. The handsome, stocky former bootlegger was followed one minute later by the larger Litteral, who also had a long prison record.

The two confessed rapists clenched hands tightly from the parallel chairs as prison chaplain W. H. R. Jackson intoned final Episcopal rites.

Jackson baptised Litteral into the church last night, as the three condemned men led religious services for their fellow death row inmates.

Litteral appeared calmer and half-smiled as he tried to pick out familiar faces among the 21 witnesses through the double glass partition.

He joked with prison guards briefly as he waited at the death cell entrance for Bell to be strapped in.

The fumes were released at 10:00 a. m. (EST). Both men struggled moderately as the gas choked out their lives.

Litteral fought harder, and in his frantic gasping for breath, his upper lip hung grotesquely out of a breathing hole in the leather mask.

Alibi Blasts Attack Story by Woman

30e(2)

Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 12-6-47

TARBORO, N.C. — Another false charge of criminal attack blew up here last week when a white Washington, N.C., young woman was found to have been lying in her accusation of a colored man.

The loyalty of a white friend, who told Sheriff W. E. Bardin that he was with the only two suspects in the case during the evening of the alleged crime, effected the men's release.

The sheriff is now looking for the woman for further questioning because of inconsistencies in her story, but as yet has been "unable to find her."

Attacked In Automobile

The woman said the attack occurred when she was left beside a stranded automobile, the driver of which, Newsome Harrison, had gone after help to get the car running. 12-6-47

She stated that a colored man who appeared suddenly seized her and when she ran into the car to escape his advances, followed her into it and forced her to have sex relations with him.

A police search was immediately launched for the "attacker" and crowds of armed white men began gathering in what might have become another lynching orgy.

Didn't Know Assailant

Bloodhounds brought from Greenville led officers to the home of two colored men near here and the woman identified one of them as her attacker. Sat.

Recognizing some discrepancies in the woman's story, the sheriff had the suspects change clothes and the woman then pointed out the other man as the one who had "ravished" her.

It was then that a white youth on the scene testified that he had been at the colored men's home all evening and that neither of them had left there.

NEGRO'S SLAYING NOT YET PROBED

30a(1) N.C.

News & Observer Raleigh, N.C.

Governor Asked to Act by NAACP Official, Termed Killing as Lynching

Sun. 12-28-47

Two Harnett County white men who killed one man and critically wounded another more than a month ago in a gangster style shooting at Angier walked the streets yesterday in complete freedom—still unquestioned by either local or county officers. 12-28-47

The identity of the killers has been reported in reports filed with the Angier police department, with the Harnett County sheriff's office, with a private prosecutor, and with Governor Cherry.

Their victims, both Negroes, fell under the blast of shot fired from a moving green auto on the morning of Sunday, November 23. One, Charlie (Bud) Smith, died instantly. The other, Daniel Lee Brassford, still under medical care, was shot through the abdomen.

Yet a member of the Harnett County sheriff's office and Angier Police Chief Alton Cobb said in answer to telephone inquiries last night that no effort had been made to question either of the men suspected of being involved.

Solicitor to Probe.

District Solicitor Jack Hooks of Kenly said he was beginning an immediate investigation personally.

A long distance connection with Chief Cobb was broken as he was being asked to clarify the relation of one of the alleged killers to a Angier police officer and to elaborate on reasons neither killer had been arrested. The connection could not be restored.

The sheriff's office spokesman, a deputy of Sheriff W. E. (Bill) Salmon of Lillington, said his department was delaying action until the Harnett County grand jury convenes next week. 30a(1)

'Not Dropped.'

"The case very definitely is not being dropped," he declared.

"We don't want to bring anybody in and then have them released after some little hearing," he contended. "We plan to wait until the grand jury meets and then do the job." News & Observer

The deputy, unidentified during the telephone conversation, did not deny that the murder had been committed by the two white men.

Chief Cobb admitted during the period he was on the line that the two men, both youths, had been linked closely with the shooting and that one of the two had been involved in a previous instance in a clash with Negro residents of Angier. Raleigh. N.C.

Governor Cherry, contending his office backed grounds to enter the issue, held the facts "don't seem to need any investigation."

"It's embarrassing," Cherry confessed. Sun. 12-28-47

The Governor's office, he pointed out, generally can bring State forces into action where investigation is required.

But in Harnett, he said, all the evidence seems to be generally known.

With names of suspects already established, there are no grounds for sending in the State Bureau of Investigation, he claimed.

"It's purely a case for the local authorities and the grand jury," he said.

The shooting and lack of action by Harnett officers came to light here following a series of telegrams received at the Governor's office and by The News and Observer from Tuskegee Institute's research and records division.

Segments of the Negro press had labelled the incident as a lynching. Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, declared the killing a lynching, and apparently it was his report that reached Tuskegee.

An investigation indicated that the lynching charge was groundless. The shooting which led to Smith's death and to Bassford's injuries, it developed, grew out of arguments between the two men and their assailants.

Reports as to the date of the shooting varied. Tuskegee was informed the shots were fired on Saturday November 22. Sheriff Salmon placed the date as Sunday, November 23.

Salmon, contacted by Hoover Adams of the Dunn Dispatch, called the lynching charge "ridiculous." Harnett County never had a lynching, he claimed. N.C.

"Knowing the people of Harnett County," Adams quoted Salmon as saying, "I don't think such a thing will ever happen."

Salmon told Adams that his office had been investigating the shooting the shooting continuously since the crime occurred in an effort to procure sufficient evidence to make an arrest. 12-28-47

A jury empaneled by Coroner C. B. Allred ruled at the inquest that Smith came to his death from gunshot wounds of a small guage at the hands of persons unknown.

Witnesses at the inquest testified they heard three shots.

A private attorney, Duncan C. Wilson of Dunn, who has been retained by Smith's widow to assist in prosecution of the case, claimed he would be willing to supply evidence and names of the killers to officers if given opportunity.

Salmon last night said he would welcome the offer.

And today, after a month of apparent inactivity, the Angier shooting was en route to the courts.

Dixie Odds Heavy Against Defendant All Jurors White

Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.

30e(2) Sat. 11-29-47

By A. M. RIVERA Jr.

WINDSOR, N. C.—Justice paled into insignificance, as did the efforts of two courageous lawyers, in a dramatic and expensive battle in Superior Court here last week to save the life of a reputed mentally deficient Negro charged with raping a white woman.

After four days and two nights, two of which were consumed in conducting a hearing on the sanity of the accused and in selecting a jury, Raleigh Speller was convicted by an all-white jury and sentenced to die by Judge Paul Edmondson, presiding jurist for the alleged rape of Mrs. Aubrey Davis.

COURTHOUSE PACKED

The courthouse in this little somnolent agrarian community was packed throughout the trial by a mixed crowd whose interest was heightened by the first appearance of Negro lawyers in this section, Herman L. Taylor, Raleigh, N. C., and C. J. Gates, Durham, N. C. 11-29-47

At the time of arraignment during the August term of court these two defense attorneys electrified the village when they entered a plea of not guilty and a motion to quash the indictment against Speller on the grounds that Negroes are systematically and consistently barred from Grand Jury service in Bertie County. This motion was overruled by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle after a lengthy hearing.

As the trial opened Monday, Judge Edmondson ordered the drawing of a special venire of seventy-five jurors. However, Gates and Taylor entered a petition to the effect that Speller is "without sufficient mental capacity to undertake his defense of the crime with which he is charged."

5-MINUTE DELIBERATION

Late Monday the jurors returned a conclusion that Speller is sane after only five minutes deliberation and without the benefit of professional testimony.

Taylor and Gates selected only five jurors before the special venire of seventy-five was exhausted. Judge Edmondson summoned an additional venire of seventy-five from the adjoining county and ordered court to be held nightly. The defense exhausted fifteen peremptory challenges and the State one before a jury was selected at 10:30 P. M., Tuesday.

Ironically the second venire of jurors was summoned from Northampton County, the scene of the still unadjudicated Godwin (Buddy) Bush case.

Argument to quash the indictment against Speller on the grounds that Negroes were excluded from jury service, revealed that though Negroes comprised 66 per cent of the population and 42 per cent of the tax payers, Negroes were never known to have been called for either the petty or Grand Jury in Bertie County.

ELIGIBLE LISTS

L. S. Mizzelle, for seventeen years clerk of the County Board of Commissioners, the body which prepares the eligible jury list, and George C. Spoolman, clerk of the court for twenty-eight years, testified that the names of Negro tax payers who qualified for jury duty were written in red whereas the names of white tax payers were typed in black.

C. E. Whitfield, State highway patrolman, struck dumb under the withering cross-examination of defense counsel, testified that he arrested Speller on the meager description that a light colored man had made the attack upon Mrs. Davis.

Whitfield stated that he was called to the home of the prosecutrix about 10:30 on the night of July 18 and found her in an hysterical condition. According to his statement, Mrs. Davis told him that a "light colored man had raped her" where upon he left in search of the "culprit."

He also stated that he went about 600 yards from the Davis home to a jukebox place where he saw the defendant sitting in front, perspiring and with his head in his hands. When defense counsel asked him if he didn't arrest the first Negro he saw, he answered that Speller had two buttons missing from his shirt and white paint on his coat and that Mrs. Davis' house had been freshly painted. The garment, which was exhibited as evidence and sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for examination, was presented to Whitfield for him to find the paint to which he referred. After a most careful inspection he admitted that he could not find the paint and that he might have been mistaken.

SHERIFF INVOLVED

Whitfield, who admitted arresting Speller, told the court that he did not notice any blood on the clothes of the defendant when he apprehended him or at any time before he turned him over to Sheriff Harry L. Smith. An agent from the FBI testified that blood was so thick on the coat and under garments that he could scrape it off for analysis.

Sheriff Smith admitted that he beat the defendant in the presence of three other ocicers when Speller attempted to escape en route to Greenville, N. C., where he was being taken for safe keeping. It was also revealed during cross-examination that Speller was treated at the Greenville hospital for three gashes in his head.

MAINTAINS INNOCENCE

It was disclosed that Speller was never taken to Mrs. Davis for identification and even though he was mercilessly beaten, he has vigorously maintained his innocence.

According to the medical report of Dr. A. Castillo, it could not be established whether or not Mrs. Davis had been criminally attacked. An analysis of the clothing of the prosecutrix revealed semen on her clothing but none on the clothing alleged to have been those of the defendant. 11-29-47

Speller, who is known generally as being mentally deficient and never known to have been in the company of women, was convicted of rape after thirty minutes deliberation.

Solicitor E. R. Tyler, who asked in his plea to the jury for "All with Anglo-Saxon blood to do your duty," boasted to the defense counsel that Speller was the twenty-first to be sentenced to the gas chamber under his prosecution.

"How many of these were Negroes?" Taylor asked. "Seventeen," replied the solicitor.

Counsel noted their appeal immediately which automatically postponed the date of execution.

Unique Plea Saves Youth, 15, From Death for Attacking Girl

30e(3)

LOUISBURG, N.C. — Robert Thorpe Jr., 15, on Nov. 26 was saved from death in the gas chamber for attacking a 6-year-old girl when Judge Q. K. Nimocks admitted a plea of "accessory before the fact" and sentenced the boy to prison for life.

The plea was made after Charles P. Green, court-appointed attorney; Judge Nimocks and Solicitor William Bickett explained to the youth and his foster father, Charlie Fowler, that the boy could easily get the death sentence under North Carolina law, which permits killing of anyone over 14.

Didn't Know Why, He Said

The slender youth admitted having attacked the child on Aug. 13 in the Fowler house near Youngsville, where he had lived since he was eight months old. He said that he didn't know why he attacked her but admitted the brutality of the crime.

One of the main witnesses during the hearing was Dr. G. C. Mackie of Wake Forest, who said that the girl's condition was so serious that several stitches were required in treating her.

Columbia Man Given 12-Year Sentence For Attack on Woman

News and Courier

COLUMBIA, Jan. 24. (AP): Bespectacled, studious-appearing William Gary Ross, a 25-year-old war veteran, was sentenced by Circuit Judge E. H. Henderson to 12 years in state prison here tonight after a jury declared him guilty of assault with intent to ravish, with a recommendation for mercy.

An attractive, unmarried young woman said Ross picked her up at a street corner offering her a ride to her place of work last October 26. Then, she said, he bought her food, drove her about town for half an hour, and raped her, after she had struggled unsuccessfully, in a lonely bivouac area near Fort Jackson. Charleston S.C.

She told the jury that he then drove her back to town and that she waited while he changed clothes at his home. He drove her to work, she said, where she called police. Sat. 1-25-47

Ross pleaded not guilty to three charges: assault with intent to ravish, criminal assault and assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature.

Ross and his mother, the only two defense witnesses, had to wait less than two hours fo rthe jury's verdict.

Defense counsel asked for a new trial and was denied, but no mention was made of an appeal.

Two Negroes Deemed Guilty In Rape Cases

Bham., Ala. News
Fri. 6-20-47

DARLINGTON, S. C., June 20—(AP)—One Negro has been sentenced to death and another was awaiting sentencing today after being convicted of rape in assaults upon white women. The juries deliberated for a total of less than 30 minutes.

30e(2) Fri. 6-20-47

Eighteen-year-old Bert Grant, Jr., found guilty of assault on a 35-year-old white woman in her home near here May 24, was sentenced last night by Judge Woodrow Lewis to the electric chair July 25.

Willie Pooler, 23, was found guilty of assaulting a 67-year-old white woman, a grandmother. The jury deliberated about 10 minutes.

Negro Sings Religious Song In Death Chair

Bham., Ala. News
Sat. 6-21-47

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 21—(AP)—William A. Davis, 27-year-old Negro convicted on a charge of raping a prominent Sumter white woman, died with a religious song on his lips in the electric chair here Friday.

30e(2)

The small, wiry Clarendon County man was calm as he entered the death chamber at State Penitentiary. He was strapped in the chair.

"I want to say, captain," the Negro told Capt. R. Fuller Goodman, of the prison staff, "that I know your race is a good race. My race is a good race. You folks here may never forgive me for what I done. My folks may never forgive me for bringing shame on them. But I know the good Lord will forgive me."

Turning to Prison Negro Chaplain R. E. Davis, he asked: "Reverend, I wonder if you'd sing that song just once more."

"That's up to the captain," Davis answered. Sat. 6-21-47

Goodman nodded approval, and the small, rotund chaplain began the first verse of "Let the Lower Lights be Burning." The condemned man joined him and they sang for a few moments.

Goodman ordered the mask and headpiece set in place and Davis said quietly, "Lord, have mercy," then, "Goodbye, everybody."

He was pronounced dead four minutes and five seconds after the switch was closed.

Greenville Scorns Freed Lynchers

Afro-American 30E(2)
Baltimore, Md.

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Reaction against the 31 acquitted lynchers of Willie Earle, one month after an all-white jury vindicated them, is frankly causing them to wonder whether conviction were not a better verdict. Sat. 6-28-47

At least four of them have been fined or otherwise punished by courts since the acquittal.

A general boycott against taxi companies for which 28 of them worked has forced most of them to seek full or part time work in other fields and signs of their own retribution are increasingly evident.

Revokes Paroles

Last Monday, U. S. District Court Judge C. C. Wyche, on motion of U. S. District Attorney Oscar Doyle, revoked paroles of two of the men, Walter T. Crawford and Perry Murrell, and remanded both to six-month jail terms. Sat. 6-28-47

One week before James M. Richardson, city recorder had fined Hendrix Rector, a third mob member who is an illiterate candidate for the office of sheriff of Greenville county next year, $100 or 30 days in jail.

Technically, Rector was fined for firing a pistol in the Greenville city limits. Specifically, he had fired on the automobile of Welford Arthur and three other colored persons.

30e(2)

Judge Richardson, scornful of Rector's contention that he had not worked the night in question, which was aesed to under oath by Woodrow W. Clardy, another lyncher and taxi driver, impounded the cab company's log books from these determined that Rector had worked.

The fourth man, along with his wife, citizens report, was haled before a domestic court judge for neglect of a child and fined after conviction.

Under Careful Scrutiny

An authorative and official source said "off the record" that the cases of all the men were under scrutiny and where possible they would be made to do unfinished or paroled prison terms since most of them have extensive prison records, ranging into several phases of criminal conduct.

Evident that both races here are as disgusted over the blanket acquittal of the men as the rest of the country is the general refusal of members of either race to hire a cab from any of the five companies involved, namely, Greenville, Blue Bird, Commercial, Yellow Cab and American. Sat. 6-28-47

The Checker cab company, only other white company in town drivers of which spurned the lynching bee, is currently doing a tremendous business from both races. The sole colored company is also taxed to capacity has not yet added enough cars to its moderate users.

Two weeks ago, when a rumor swept around town that the Checker company had hired two of the lynchers, the Checker company was stampeded with angry protests and demands that the two be fired at once.

The five other companies returned to work each mob member all of whom, in fact, continued to drive while under bond for the crime, pending trial.

Indication that the conscience of the men is beginning to bother them, is seen in an incident related by a well-known minister, late one night, aroused himself from bed in response to a knock.

Marked Men

Standing there sobbing softly, his eyes blood-shot and his face haggard and drawn, was one of the lynchmen whom the minister had known for years and, whose brother at one time had worked on the Minister's farm.

"Reverend, I am a marked man," the acquitted wept. "I don't know why I ever got mixed up in that thing." The minister took his visitor into the living room, and still clad in pajamas, knelt with the man and prayed.

Aided to their daily plague of contemptuous and scornful stares is the yet undecided move of the Department of Justice to file "civil rights" charges against them. Sat. 6-28-47

Their names are on every tongue, and they ape vertiably "men without a community."

S. C. Negro Dies In Chair On Assault Charge

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World 30e(2)

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(SNS)—Convicted on a charge of attacking a prominent Sumter white woman at her home April 15, 27-year-old William A. Davis died in the electric chair Friday.

Sat. 6-21-47

As Davis was strapped in the chair he told Captain R. Fuller Gooodman, of the prison staff: "I know your race is a good race. My folks may never forgive me for bringing shame on them. But I know the good Lord will forgive me."

Davis' last request was to have R. E. Davis, Negro Chaplain sing "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning."

Captain Goodman consented and the condemned man joined in with Chaplain Davis and both sang for a few moments.

Calmly the condemned man settled himself in the chair and as the headpiece was set in place he uttered "Lord, have mercy. Goodbye, everybody."

Sat. 6-21-47

Four minutes and five seconds after the switch was thrown he was pronounced dead.

18-year-old Bert Grant Jr., who was found guilty of assault of a 35-year-old white woman May 24 is to die in the chair July 25, while Willie Pooler, 23, is awaiting sentence for alleged assault on a 67-year-old white woman, a grandmother.

Youth Dies In Chair For Attempted Rape

Atlanta Daily World

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(SNS) — 18-year old Bert Grant died in the electric chair here Friday following his conviction of attempting to assault a white woman in Darlington county two months ago.

Grant was said to have asked for and was given "a little more chicken" just 15 minutes before he was led to the death chamber.

30e(2)

He reportedly admitted his guilt.

Legal Lynching Claims 3 To Pacify Race Hate

30e(2)

Chicago Defender

COLUMBIA, S. C.—One Negro male was executed last week in the state's electric chair for allegedly raping a white woman and two more are slated to die on similar charges within the next two weeks as South Carolina sternly applies legal lynching to pacify Negro-hating whites in the state which recently freed 28 confessed lynchers. Sat. 7-12-47

William A. Davis, 27-year-old Sumter resident, died last week for alleged criminal assault on a prominent Sumter white woman. The accused was sentenced last May, but made no plea to the governor nor sought an appeal. His mother, Mrs. Sarah Davis was too poor to afford her son legal counsel, it was learned. Chicago, Ill.

The other two victims of this state's outbreak of legal lynchings against Negroes charged with raping white women are 18-year-old Bert Grant and 23-year-old Willie Peeler, both of Darlington. Grant is slated to die on July 25 for raping a 35-year-old white woman in her Darlington home on May 24, while Peeler is accused of raping a 67-year-old white grandmother in the woods near her home on May 25. Sat. 7-12-47

In all three cases, the court took the word of the white women but disregarded that of the Negro men, it was learned. Court records do not disclose any material witnesses to the three rapings. Grant and Peeler were doomed to die by youthful Judge Woodrow Lewis.

Willie Pooler Dies Calmly In Electric Chair

Columbia Record
Columbia, S.C.
30e(2)
Fri. 8/1/47

BY MARK WARREN

The first warm rays of the morning's sunshine filtered through the barred windows of the state's deathhouse today and gave Willie Pooler, 19-year-old Darlington county Negro, his last look at nature before his death in the electric chair.

It was a quiet execution and Pooler was pronounced dead by Dr. M. Whitfield Cheatham, prison physician, 2:29 1-2 minutes after guards strapped him in the chair.

Small and timid, Pooler had nothing at all to say before the persons who viewed his death, but earlier, in his cell, he said that a spur-of-the-moment action led to the incident of May 25, when he criminally assaulted a 67-year-old white woman, a grandmother, near Darlington off Timmonsville road.

Born At Darlington

Pooler was born at Darlington and was the son of Clarence and Della Pooler. Fri. 8/1/47

He said today that he had made his profession of Christian faith, and was baptized last week with another Darlington county youth, Bert Grant, Jr., 18, who died last Friday for attempted criminal assault upon a 35-year-old white woman, the mother of three children.

He today requested the Negro chaplain, the Rev. E. A. Davis, and the Negro chaplain at the Veterans Hospital, the Rev. G. W. Williams, that a letter be sent to a Darlington friend, Willie Samuel of Coker street, "To pray for me." He said he wanted to testify to Samuel of the Christian way of life.

Pooler Is Calm

Pooler was calm. He sat in his cell and listened to wo rds of the Bible as read by his visiting ministers.

"When he came here," the Rev. Davis commented, "He was real timid. Now, he's not afraid of anything. He's calm and talks like any other person." From his cell, Pooler nodded assent.

Pooler's next cell neighbor, Leonard Arthur Pringle, 25, of Lancaster and Brooklyn, N. Y., has been reading the Bible to Pooler all week, and said a goodbye to him this morning.

Pringle, who cited some his favorite books of the Bible, and a deathhouse occupant on the opposite side of that grim building, Ernest W. Willis, 26, also of Lancaster and Brooklyn, said their double execution was set August 15, but that an appeal was being planned. Fri 8/1/47

The two Brooklynites, working on a construction project near Chester, hired a Negro cab driver, Willie Reid, of Lancaster, last spring, and then stabbed him to death, buried him, and escaped with $180 and his cab.

Judge Arthur Lee Gaston sentenced them to death July 11 upon conclusion of their trial at Chester.

Hears The Psalms

One of the last of the Scriptural passages that Pooler heard today was from the 23rd Psalm, read by Chaplain Davis, Pooler said it comforted him.

The chaplain described Pooler as "A splendid fellow—who made a mistake."

"I've never seen a man with so much faith".

Guards made their last call at Pooler's cell, the doors were unbolted and he walked "the last mile" to the next door execution chamber.

There a number of spectators waited in quietness as Pooler was strapped to the chair.

"Do you have any last statement?" asked Captain R. Fuller Goodman.

Pooler looked up and shook his head twice.

Near him were several white ministers, including the Rev. C. M. Kelly, prison chaplain the Rev. P. P. Belew of Rochester, N. Y., and a young minister, the Rev. W. A. Martin of the Nazarene church here.

Death Comes Suddenly

Death seemed to slip up suddenly on Pooler. As the state electrician, Sam W. Cannon, pulled the switch, Pooler seemed to lurch—and die in one motion.

Death was pronounced just after 7:02 a. m. Fri 8/1/47

Later, Pooler was buried in the prison cemetery, still wearing the blue shirt and green trousers he wore as his final garb on earth.

S. C. Legal Lynching Claims Three Lives

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

30e(2)

Sat. 7-5-47

COLUMBIA, S. C. — (ANP)—One Negro male was executed last week in the State's electric chair for allegedly raping a white woman and two more are slated to die on similar charges within the next two weeks as South Carolina sternly applies legal lynching to pacify Negro-hating whites in the State which recently freed twenty-eight confessed lynchers.

William A. Davis, 27-year-old Sumter resident, died last week for alleged criminal assault on a prominent Sumter, white woman. The accused was sentenced last May, but made no plea to the Governor nor sought an appeal. His mother, Mrs. Sarah Davis, is too poor to afford her son legal counsel, it was learned. Sat. 7-5-47

OTHER VICTIMS

The other two victims of this State's outbreak of legal lynchings against Negroes charged with raping white women are 18-year-old Bert Grant and 23-year-old Willie Pooler, both of Darlington. Grant is slated to die on July 25 for raping a 35-year-old white woman in her Darlington home on May 24, while Pooler is accused of raping a 67-year-old white grandmother in the woods near her home on May 25. Sat. 7-5-47

In all three cases, the court took the word of the white women but disregarded that of the Negro men, it was learned. Court records do not disclose any material witnesses to the three rapings. Grant and Pooler were doomed to die by youthful Judge Woodrow Lewis.

Convict Cleared Of Attack Charge Involving 68-Year-Old Woman

Norfolk, Va.

30e(2)

Journal & Guide

Special To Journal and Guide

COLUMBIA, S. C. — "Southern justice" refused to take its usual course here last week when Frank Williams, a 38-year-old convict, was found "not guilty" of an assault charge brought against him by a 68-year-old white housewife, and left the Richland county courthouse here a "free man"—except for the sentence he is already serving. 30e(2)

Judge Marvin M. Mann directed that the county jury write a "not guilty" verdict in the case, which charged Williams with criminally attacking the women in her home March 17, 1946, when he concluded that "it wouldn't take a lawyer to see that there had been no connected testimony in the case" to make out a reasonable charge against the trustee convict.

The original recommendation for dropping of the charges was issued by Solicitor T. Pou Taylor. 9-20-42

TESTIMONY CONFUSED

Even though Solicitor Taylor said that the testimony of a Columbia hospital doctor who examined the woman revealed that she had been attacked, and declared that the person who committed the deed should "go to the electric chair," he admitted that the woman's positiveness in identifying the man in court was considerably weakened by the fact that she had failed to identify him 30 days after the attack—even though she had seen him several times.

The testimony of Henry Elmer Smith a chain-gang guard at the camp where Williams is imprisoned, was also challenged. Smith testified that he missed Williams for a few hours on the day of the alleged crime, and that he had observed the accused convict a quarter-hour after the time of the attack coming from the direction of the woman's house.

GUARD DELAYS TESTIMONY 9-20-47

The chain-gang guard admitted, however, that he had not mentioned seeing Williams coming from the direction of the woman's house until seven months after the date of the crime at a preliminary hearing.

The guard also admitted that in the meantime Williams had written a letter to a Negro organization, and when asked if the letter written by the defendant hadn't made him "mad", replied that he "wouldn't say so," and that "it wasn't up to" him to get mad—that would be up to the captain of the gang.

Other points of difference during the trial included the identification of the attacker, which the woman hopelessly jumbled, and the impossibility of Williams to have been away from the chain-gang camp at the time of the alleged attack. 30e(2)

JUDGE ORDERS VERDICT 9-20-47

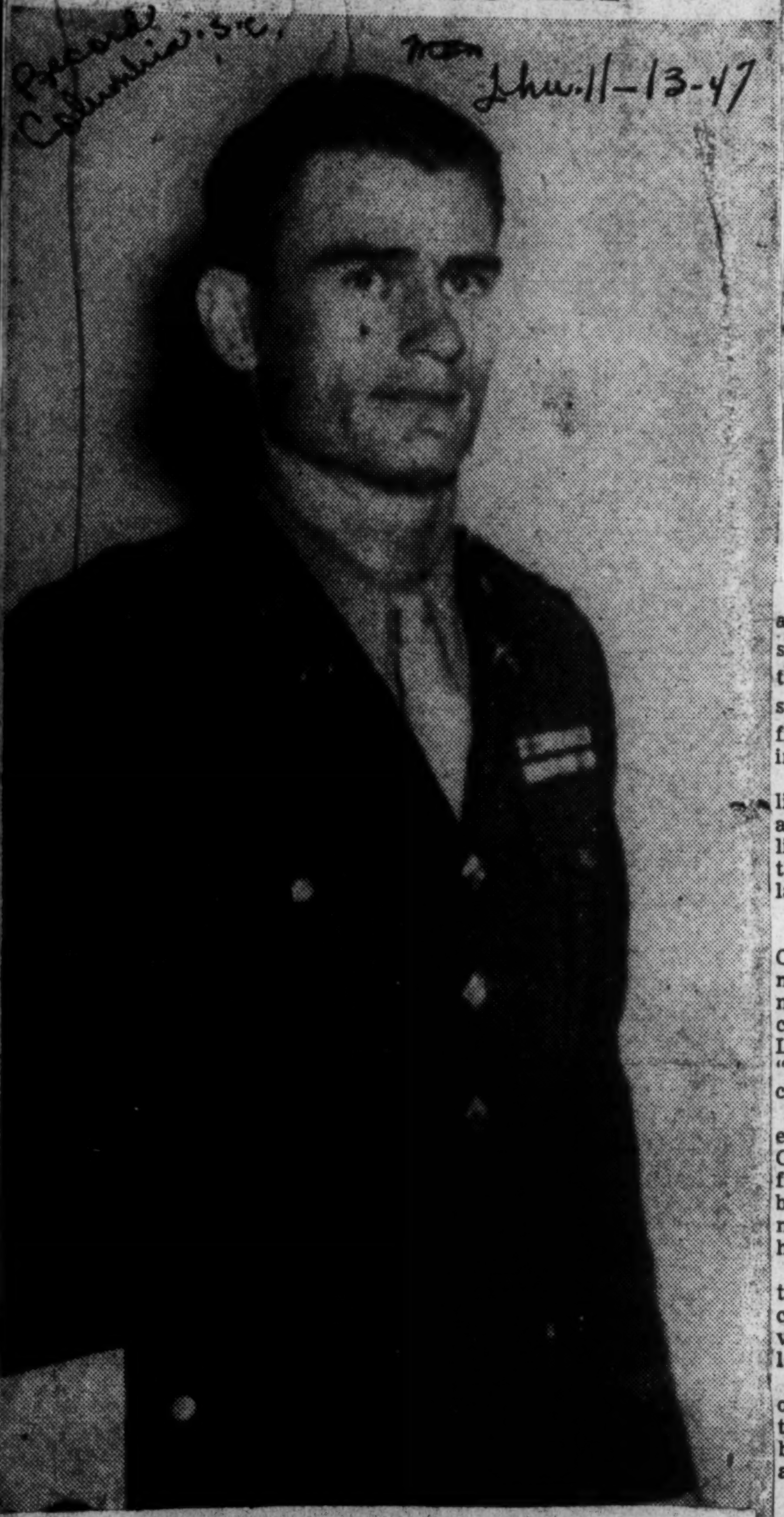
With such overwhelming evidence in favor of the defendant, and such inconsistency on the part of prosecuting witnesses and barristers, Judge Mann handed down his order to find the accused not guilty.

30e(2) 1947

South Carolina

7569

SENTENCED TO LIFE


Record Columbia, S.C.

Thu. 11-13-47

LIEUTENANT William Theodore Lovely of Fort Jackson and Gainesville, Fla., was sentenced to life imprisonment today in federal district court, after a jury found him guilty of criminal assault upon a Columbia waitress. The jury recommended against capital punishment. This photograph was taken in a corridor of the federal court house building as Lieutenant Lovely, who plans to appeal for a new trial, left a session of the trial yesterday. (Staff photo by Jimmy Price.)

Lovely Convicted; Sentenced To Life

30e(2) S.C. The Record

Columbia, S.C.

Jury Recommends Against Death Sentence After Two-Hour Session

Lt. William Theodore Lovely today faced a sentence of life imprisonment, after a jury in United States district court here handed down a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation against capital punishment, to charges of criminal assault brought against him by a blonde Columbia waitress.

The officer's attorneys, Claude N. Sapp, Jr., and Walter S. Monteith, Jr., indicated that they would make a motion for a new trial.

The 27-year-old infantry lieutenant received the verdict with a stony face, but the roommate of the waitress pressing charges, described in trial testimony as a girl friend of the officer, buried her face in her hands,

Unless a new trial is ordered, the lieutenant will be released from the army and will serve the rest of his life in a federal penitentiary. At the end of 15 years, under federal law, he may be eligible for parole.

50-Minute Charge

United States District Judge C. C. Wyche charged the jury for 50 minutes this morning, and made no mention of a verdict for a lesser crime than criminal assault, since Lovely's attorneys had requested a "not guilty" verdict to the crime charged.

While the judge spoke, Lovely's estranged wife, a small brunette of Gainesville, Fla., and his local "girl friend" sat together and whispered back and forth. Mrs. Lovely's eight-months-old baby did not accompany her today, as in previous sessions.

The jury retired at 10:47 a. m. to deliberate, and returned to the courtroom at 12:40 p. m. with the verdict. S. Wayne Gamble of Greeleyville served as foreman.

Had the jury returned a verdict of guilty, with no recommendations, the automatic sentence would have been the electrocution of Lieutenant Lovely. 11-13-47

Nine Years In Army

The officer, member of the armed forces for the past nine and one-half years, was charged with committing criminal assault upon a 20-year-old girl at a deserted portion of the Fort Jackson reservation on October 20. He contended that she submitted willingly to him, but she told the court that she had resisted him for 45 minutes.

Maximum Penalty Asked

U. S. District Attorney Ben Scott Whaley of Charleston asked the jury yesterday to give him the maximum verdict, declaring, "The decency and morals of our womanhood are entitled to the protection of the law from a man like that."

Assistant District Attorney H. H. Edens of Columbia asserted that "Lovely is worse than a mad dog; he has committed the worst crime known in South Carolina, and he should be treated like a mad dog and put out of circulation."

Meanwhile, the officer's attorneys, Claude N. Sapp, Jr., and Walter S. Monteith, Jr., told the jury that "there is more doubt than testimony in this case."

Lieutenant Lovely consistently denied on the witness stand yesterday that he had assaulted the girl, and said that she submitted willingly to him after an evening at the officers' club on the reservation.

Surprise Witness

A surprise witness for the prosecution, a pretty 25-year-old store employe, testified yesterday that she too had been a victim of the lieutenant two weeks before the alleged attack on the waitress. She said that Lovely had assaulted her at a deserted spot on the reservation, after a dance at the officers' club. She told the court that when he parked, she asked him to take her home, and he refused, so she hit him with his whiskey bottle and broke it on his scalp. He drove to the station hospital for treatment of the wound, she related, then drove back and assaulted her.

30e(2) S.C.

She had not reported it to legal authorities, she said, because she was "ashamed." However, after hearing of the second alleged case, now being tried, she changed her mind, because, she said, "I want to see him get what's coming to him."

7569

Miller To Die; Still Says He Is Innocent

Record Columbia S.C.

30e(2) S.C.

Roosevelt Miller, 21-year-old Negro from Fountain Inn, today apparently lost his last hope for life when the State Pardon and Parole board recommended to Gov. J. Strom Thurmond that the death sentence be carried out tomorrow as ordered by the courts. Thu

Miler, convicted of the November, 1946, criminal assault upon a 46-year-old Fountain Inn white woman, has continued to maintain his innocence. Thu. 12-11-47

Preparations were under way this afternoon at the state's prison for Miller's death in the electric chair in the morning. He was to have a supper of his own liking tonight, his last meal before death at the state's orders. 12-11-47

His last hope swept away, Miller expressed his readiness for death since there seemed no remaining avenue to the life sentence which he had hoped might be recommended by the state board today.

Miller, convicted and sentenced March 18, was originaly scheduled to die May 2, but successive delaying steps postponed death until the state supreme court upheld the lower court action, and today's recommendation failed to alter Miller's status.

Miller has not yet altered his story which placed him elsewhere than the scene of the crime on the day it occurred.

Miller Dies In Electric Chair Denying Guilt

Record

30e(2)

Columbia, S.C.

By MARK WARREN

Strapped to the electric chair seat at the state prison death house to-

day and with eternity but a moment away, Roosevelt Miller, 21-year-old Fountain Inn Negro, declared, "I did not do it, I did not do it." Fri S.C.

Gazing intently at Capt. R. Fuller Goodman, who asked Miller if he had any final statement, the latter replied, "Yes, sir." Fri. 12-12-47

Thereupon, Miller reiterated again and again that he did not commit the assault November 20, 1946, upon a 46-year-old white woman.

He said that his previous statements as to how he spent that day were true, and related spending that evening at home after earlier going to a motion picture show. Miller repeated the name of a witness he said could have thrown more light on the matter to verify previous statements. 12-12-47

After Miller's final statement was complete, Dr. M. Whitfield Cheatham, who had examined the preparations, said "All right," whereupon Captain Goodman tapped his cane on the floor, the signal for the state electrician, Samuel Cannon, to throw the switch.

As Miller had first entered the death room, there was a chant, "Oh, Lord," in song on his lips. Just as the switch was pulled, it sounded as though he made a short outcry, and then he died.

Death was pronounced three minutes and 43 seconds after the current first flowed into his body.

Talks To Chaplains

Prior to entering the death room, Miller talked with the Rev. C. R. Hahn, prison chaplain, and the Rev. Edward A. Davis, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist church, who administers spiritual assistance to Negro prisoners.

Both ministers said that Miller did not vary from his original statement of innocence made Wednesday.

At his request, Miller's Bible is to be forwarded to relatives at Woodruff.

30e(2)

A Spartanburg undertaker was to claim Miller's body for burial today. Record

'I'M NOT GUILTY!'

30 e (2)

One Day Of Life Left, Convict Denies Guilt

Record, Columbia, S.C.

By MARK WARREN

With only one full day of life before him, unless a stay of execution or executive clemency intervene, Roosevelt Miller, 21-year-old Fountain Inn Negro today denied in the death house at the state's central prison, that he was guilty of the crime for which he is scheduled to die Friday in the electric chair.

"I'm not guilty of that crime," Miller said in the presence of prison officials and others in the death house. 12-10-47

Miller, who was convicted of assault upon a 46-year-old white woman of Fountain Inn in November, 1946, and who was sentenced March 18 of this year to die May 2 for the offense, declared he was at home on the date the attack took place. Wed

He today declared that the prosecuting witness in the case could not even identify him as the supposedly guilty party.

'Would Say So'

Miller, leaning against the death cell bars and peering toward the small window through which the outside rain could be observed in its dismal fall, added, "If I was guilty, I would say so."

A plumber's helper, he said he had been away from his home for some time at the time police came one night and placed him under arrest and charged him in the assault case. 12-10-47

After his conviction in court and sentence by Judge G. B. Greene of Anderson, Miller filed appeal to the supreme court, which upheld his conviction and penalty.

Today, his case was before the state parole board for consideration of recommendation to the state's chief executive, Gov. J. Strom Thurmond. Wed. 12-10-47

'Ready To Die'

Glancing out of the cell in direction of the prison chaplain, the Rev. C. R. Hahn, Miller said he was "ready to die—if they want me to die".

The chaplain confirmed that Miller had claimed innocence since his admission to prison November 18.

30 e (2)

Miller, a professing Methodist, said he had not had much schooling as he entered school at eight and left at the age of nine.

Born In Spartanburg

Miller was born in Spartanburg county and he said his father, whose name is Willie Griffin, lives in Duncan, Route 1.

He said his mother was living but he did not know where.

He said he has a sister, Mattie Lee, at Woodruff. Miller added he did not know her last name since she married.

Bible In His Cell

Miller was lying down in his cell when Guard Lt. John E. Spears approached and asked him how he was getting along.

Near Miller was observed a small Bible, which he apparently had been scanning.

Despite his lack of schooling, Miller conversed with but few grammatical errors. His education in that respect seemed to result from self-teaching.

Miller indicated he had about given up hope, unless a Columbia attorney, Harold Boulware, was able to obtain another stay for him.

Others Await Courts

Willie Gidron, 19, of Lone Star, a Negro, convicted in the shooting to death of Sheriff George Tilley of St. Matthews, is a prison inmate at this time awaiting the setting of the time for his death. His appeal from sentence has been overruled by the supreme court of the state.

He was sentenced May 26 by Judge M. M. Mann who is currently presiding in Richland General Sessions court.

Also awaiting action of the courts from his death sentence is L. D. Harris, 24, Aiken Negro, sentenced January 10 by Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., in the fatal shooting of the wife of a store owner. Both the woman and her husband were shot to death by a man who robbed the store, and who was identified as Harris.

No Stay Is Granted

C. Wardlaw Moorman of the prison's office staff yesterday made the final check by telephone with Solicitor Robert T. Ashmore of Greenville, who prosecuted the case, and confirmed that no stay had been granted from the death sentence, which had been appealed to the state supreme court. Later, the state probation and parole board considered the matter and recommended that sentence be carried out as ordered. Columbia, S.C.

A number of calls were received by the state board requesting a recommendation of commutation to life sentence by the governor, after Miller stated in the death house that the assault victim had never identified him as her attacker.

Investigation Is Detailed

The state probation and parole board investigation in the report made to J. C. Todd, director, held that Miller was guilty as charged, and quoted a statement he is said to have made to arresting officers that he was the one who also followed some other women in that area (another was attacked).

The report did confirm however, that "She (the victim of the first attack) could not identify her assailant, and never did."

The first attack was made on the unmarried woman who was walking home from Fountain Inn, returning from work in Greenville. She was choked, beaten, attacked and left unconscious in the swamp near the branch bridge.

Other Instances Reported

In addition, to the first case, upon which the capital penalty was demanded by the state, several other offenses were reported.

One was reported several weeks later by a Fountain Inn woman who told police she was followed by a Negro man. Chief J. G. Armstrong and two other officers were quickly on the call and later one officer fired upon a suspect who fled into the thicket. Likewise, the investigation reported that after that a married white woman, about 50, was attacked and assaulted near her home. Record

During these crimes, officers from Fountain Inn, Greenville and Laurens counties kept constant watch for a suspect. Columbia, S.C.

Informer Tells Police

In February, of this year, an informer, a Negro girl, went to Chief Armstrong at Fountain Inn and told him she had information.

Later, she said, Miller, also known under the alias of Robert Teasley, told her he was after white women. She said he burned clothes in his room the night after the first assault case occurred and told her he would have to leave town.

Still later, he did leave, and was living in a sawmill shack in Greenville county when Greenville county and city police arrested him.

Signs Statement

Miller was quoted as admitting that he was the wanted man and that he related in detail circumstances of the cases, and took officers to the scene. On Miller's body was found a flesh wound which they quoted him as saying he received the time he was shot at by a Fountain Inn police officer.

They said that Miller placed his signature upon his statements, by marking it to indicate it was his true statement of his guilt.

Sheriff R. H. Bearden, of Greenville, Sheriff C. W. Weir of Lauren and Chief Armstrong of Fountain Inn were present, together with others, when Miller made his statement, the parole board was informed.

The presiding judge, G. B. Greene of Anderson, who presided when Miller was tried, informed the board he thought it was one of the plainest cases of being guilty he had ever heard.

The probation and parole board investigation also included questioning of all persons who could offer authentic information on the matter, all of whom expressed themselves as regarding Miller as the guilty man, with no question of error. 12-12-47

Other criminal activities charged to Miller were:

Conviction in Spartanburg county, July 26, 1944, to serve one year, charge, housebreaking and larceny, sentence suspended and place upon probation. Fri.

Sentenced To 40 Years

Sentence, October 17, 1944, on charge of assault with intent to ravish, sentence, 40 years.

On November 28, 1944, Miller escaped the Spartanburg chaingang. He was apprehended April 18, 1945, and escaped again, May 1, 1946. Then it was that he went to Fountain Inn to live, about a mile from town out Fairview road.

It was on November 20, 1946, that the first criminal attack case occurred in the Fountain Inn area, which was followed by the later reported outrages. Fri. 12-12-47

The cases aroused much feeling. While Miller was convicted only in the first case, opinion was expressed by those who made investigation, that he was also guilty in the other instances. Wed.

In prison, however, Miller denied guilt, even when it was apparent he had no further hope for commutation of sentence. 12-12-47

The next scheduled execution at the prison will be in January.

"I DON'T BELIEVE HE RAPED HER," DECLARE WHITES HEARING STORY

Black Dispatch Oklahoma City, Okla.

Mistrial Ends Action While Fiery Crosses Burn in Tennessee

30e(2)

DEFENDANT HELD IN $10,000 BOND

Sat. 5-17-47

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — (ANP) — The case of Charlie Smith charged with the alleged rape of Mrs. Rubye Farris, white, last Feb. 5, ended in a mistrial here last week, when the jury was deadlocked by an 8-4 verdict for acquittal.

It seemed to be the concensus of opinion in the crowded courtroom that the accused had not raped her. One comment, coming from a white spectator at the rear of the courtroom was "I believe the colored man had a good time with Rubye all right, but you can't make me believe he raped her."

Smith, in his defense testimony, admitted having relationship with her, but claimed it was by common consent for a price. Other defense witnesses testified that they had had relationship with her for the sum of $2. The defense brought out that the woman had been permanently barred from five different hotels due to her padading and advertising. In addition, it was established that she had been living with a man who did not become her lawful husband until April 21, when they were married secretly at Rossville, Ga.

The appearance of 12 burning crosses in different sections of the city, following the mistrial, gave rise to the suspicion that the Ku Klux Klan was becoming actively interested in the rape trial. Police arrested 10 men, who called themselves members of the "White Carnation club" for erecting a 15-foot cross in a field. They were released from the jail the next day, but Police Capt. Elmer Dykes said "We catalogued them for future reference, but have no charge to hold them on."

30e(2) Tenn

A retrial for Smith is set for July 8. He was remanded to jail in default of $10,000 bail. He was represented by Attys. Moses and Williams, who were appointed by the court, and Atty. Carl A. Cowan, who entered the case for the local NAACP. Their combined legal efforts was credited with having blocked the prosecution's attempt to secure a conviction, and causing the hung jury.

Man Escapes Death Penalty In Rape Case

30e(2)

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill. Sat. 7-19-47

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—(ANP)—A solution to the Charles "Honky-Tonk" Smith rape case was found Wednesday when Smith was sentenced to serve 11 months and 29 days in the Knox County workhouse and pay a fine of $500 and court costs of $211. The attorney general's office permitted Smith to plead guilty to a reduced charge of assault and battery.

A jury, last April, could not agree on a verdict for Smith, charged with the rape of Ruby Farris, a white woman, on Feb. 5. She and others testified to marks and bruises on her body which she claimed were inicted by Smith, who denied it. Smith testified that he had been intimate with her on more than one occasion with her consent and without any force.

Sat, 7-19-47

A mistrial was declared and presiding Judge J. Fred Bibb, subsequently said that he believed a verdict could never be obtained. The scrappy local NAACP attorney, Carl A. Cowan, ably assisted by Attys. H. K. Williams and Freddie Moses, court appointees, met masterfully every legal onslaught of the Hal Clements Jr., state's attorney, who held out for the death penalty.

Sat. 7-19-47

Through solicitation of Fred Logan and Madison Smith, dance promoters, Lucky Millinder's orchestra appearing here at that time, donated the proceeds of one of his concerts to the Smith defense fund.

7571

Tenn. Judge Grants New Trial to Attack Suspect

Afro-American

30e(2) Tenn.

21-Year Jail Term Result of Prejudice, 'Reasonable Doubt' Exists, Court Opines

Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 8-23-47

CHATTANOOGA—Because he thought the verdict was influenced by race prejudice, Special Judge Raulston Schoolfield recently granted a new trial to Theodore Butts, under sentence of 21 years in prison, for an alleged criminal assault on a white woman. Maurice Weaver was his attorney.

Judge Schoolfield, serving in the Criminal Court of Hamilton county in the absence of the regular presiding judge, L. D. Miller, said, in granting Butts a new trial:

"If he had been white instead of colored, I think he would have been acquitted by a jury inside of 15 minutes." Quoting a Middle, Tennessee judge, he added:

Guilt in Doubt

"This is a white man's country and a white man's court....for that very reason we have to give a colored person the benefit of every doubt.

"I am very hesitant to set aside this verdict, but I am not satisfied with it, and I don't believe this man is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. For that reason, I am granting him a new trial."

Attacker "Masked"

Butts was indicted for the alleged attack in a field near the Crane Enamel Ware Co. early last May. His accuser testified that a "masked colored" man drew a knife on her and forced her to walk into the field from the sidewalk. Sat. 8-23-47

She positively identified Butts as her assailant, and two detectives testified that one of the suspect's shoes fitted exactly into a footprint left in the sand, and, even to the turned-over part of the heel.

Although the woman said the time of the attack was around 7:30 or 8 p.m., the man who drove off the suspect said the attack took place after 8:30 p.m. and it was dark. Sat. 8-23-47

Several defense witnesses testified Butts was on Ninth St. between 7 and 9 p.m.

30e(2)

Negro Acquitted On 'Rape' Charge

Daily Worker N.Y. N.Y.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Oct. 5—Theodore Butts, a Negro charged with the attempted 'rape' of a white woman was acquitted here last week when witnesses faltered in their stories. He was defended by Maurice M. Weaver, who recently helped defend the Negroes involved in the Columbia, Tell. riots. 10-6-47

Butts was convicted at a first trial, but Weaver secured a new trial and broke down the stories of witnesses who claimed they saw Butts try to attack the woman on a dark street. Sat

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Had Stout Alibi

30e(2)

Tenn. Rape Suspect Freed at 2nd Trial

Courier

Pittsburgh Pa.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—A stout alibi proved to be the axis upon which freedom was spun for Theodore Butts in his second trial for the attempted rape on a white woman. His first trial had resulted in a conviction and a sentence of twenty-one years in prison.

Accused of the alleged rape attempt last May, Butts was tried in July. At that time officers testified that footprints in the dirt at the scene of the attack matched those of Butts' shoe, even to a run-over heel. Butts was allegedly positively identified by the woman who was attacked, and he was declared guilty.

GRANTED NEW TRIAL

Dissatisfied with the verdict, attorneys for Butts, R. H. Craig and Maurice Weaver, requested a new trial, which was granted by Special Judge Raulston Schoolfield. In granting the new trial, the judge implied skepticism, which led him to remark that had a white man been charged with the same offense under the same circumstances he would have been acquitted by the jury in fifteen minutes.

At the new trial, Butts produced numerous witnesses who testified that he was more than two miles away from the scene of the attack at the time it allegedly had occurred. The jury believed the witnesses and Butts was acquitted after Judge Schoolfield had held the court in session far into the night.

Attorney Craig declared that the verdict was "a signal victory for tolerance and fair play."

Attorney Weaver was one of the defense lawyers in the Columbia riot case last year.

30e(2) 1947

Texas

7572

Tells Court He Signed Confession Admitting Offense After Threat

The Informer

Houston, Texas Sat. 5-10-47

HOUSTON -- Wilson Moore, charged with raping a 16-year-old white girl last February 22, was given the death penalty at 4 p.m. Wedensday by a jury who deliberated the case four hours and half, following testimony and arguments which ended in District Judge Langston G. King's court at 11:30 a.m. 30e(2) Tex.

Approximately 30 hours previous to the jury's verdict, Moore sat on the witness stand and claimed he had been warned by a Texas Ranger and Harris County sheriff department officers, that if he didn't admit in a written statement that he assaulted the girl, "they would drag me behind an automobile over a gravel road until I was dead."

The 26 year-old defendant was found guilty of raping the young girl near Jensen drive and Ladies about 10 p. m., after tying up the girl's 19-year-old companion with bailing wire and rope.

The charge against Moore further alleged that following the assault, the defendant took the couple's car and drove away.

In addition to the death penalty, Moore is currently serving a 1-year jail term for carrying a pistol in connection with the same offense.

The apparently doomed man spent most of his adult life in the penitentiary having put up two penitentiary terms for two cases of burglary For each of these convictions he received pardons.

In response to interrogations from one of his court appointed attorneys, C. F. Tucker, Moore said that three days following the attack, he was at his home when four officers drove up to his home in Almeda. Sat. 5-10-47

"The officers got out of the car. They entered my home with drawn guns. One officer jabbed a gun in my stomach and another hit me in the [illegible] and kicked me. Then they handcuffed me and told me to get in the car," the witness said beginning his testimony.

It was brought out during previous testimony of the trial that

pulled a silver plated German Luger and suggested that the trio the officers went to Moore's home after arresting Aaron Jones, ex-convict of four trips, driving the stolen car in which it was charged that Moore took from the girl's companion after committing the rape.

Jones, who is also serving a one-year jail term for carrying a pistol, said that Moore met him (Jones) and a friend, ex-convict Leroy Allen, several hours following the offense on West Dallas street, and that Moore told the couple he had some "rubber" around the corner that he had robbed from a white fellow.

Jones further said that after he and Moore had ridden around together, Moore left him in possession of the car, which accounted for Jones being in possession of the vehicle when the officers arrested him several days later.

From other testimony it was learned that Jones was taken to Huntsville where he identified a picture of Moore as that of the man who left the car in his possession. Sat. 5-10-47

Leroy Allen, the other man alleged to have been with Moore and Jones following the attack, said he rode with the couple a short while, but when Moore make some easy money, he made an excuse and went home to bed.

The connecting circumstances involving the silver luger and Jones identification of Moore, led the officers to seek out Moore as the number one suspect, a Texas ranger said. The ravaged girl and her companion had previously testified that they were held up by a Negro waving a silver plated pistol). 30e(2) Tex.

During the long course of Moore's testimony, it was suggested that Aaron Jones was the guilty man instead of himself, because Aaron Jones weighed nearer 200 pounds and was closer in height to 6 feet than himself. (It was also previously elicited from the young girl and companion by the defense counsel that the couple had given police a description of the attacker as being over 6 feet tall and weighing over 200 pounds.

And still another apparent effort to reverse the charge against himself to Jones, Moore said he had never seen the stolen car before Aaron Jones picked him up early Sunday morning, shortly after the raping occurred.

"Jones had a 25 blue steel automatic and said he was going home and disguise himself and pull a job. Leroy Allen was with the two of us," Moore said.

The defendant had previously attempted to established for himself an alibi, saying that at the date and time the assault occurred he was at the home of a friend, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Mathis, 815 West Dallas, where he remained until "around 3 a. m. when I left and went on the streets and met Jones and Allen."

Mr. and Mrs. Mathis had previously testified that the defendant was at their home on the night of February 22. But according to Mrs. Mathis, Moore was in the bed sleeping when she left for work the following morning. Moore, however, said he left the Mathis home around 3 a. m.

On cross examining Moore, District Attorney Winborn pointed out this contrast to the jury.

Earlier Tuesday morning the attacked girl told the jury that she was positive that Moore was the man who tied up her "boy friends," ravaged her, and then drove away in their automobile.

She added that Moore had said he would have killed them if they weren't so young .

At this phase of the trial Attorney Tucker made Moore stand up. Moore obeyed. The defense lawyer said: Sat. 5-10-47

"Now Miss——I want you to take a good look at this man. And with the realization he may be given the death penalty if he is found guilty, are you definitely sure this is the man that attacked you?"

"I am sure that is the man," the girl answered.

"In spite of the fact that you told police you thought your attacker weighed 200 pounds and was 6 feet tall," Mr. Tucker asked.

"I am sure that is the man," the girl said.

Perhaps the highlight of the rape case, which started Monday morning at 9, was Moore's testimony that he was beaten and threatened into signing the statement admitting the crime.

"The officers drove me out to the Shell Road, near the Pierce Junction. They made me get out of the car. Then one of the officers (Texas Ranker Klevenhagen) knocked me down, stood on my head and on my stomach.

"Then they took me to the underpass on South Main where the Texas Ranger and I got in the car with Sheriff Neal Polk.

"I said to Sheriff Polk, I 'am mighty glad to see you because those officers tried to kill me back there' but Sheriff Polk struck me in the mouth with his fists.

"Then Sheriff Polk and the Ranger drove me toward the Fort Bend county line and stopped near a windmill

"One of the officers (the Texas Ranger) pointed to the windmill and told me that if we reached there I would do 50 years in 10 minutes; and that if I didn't admit raping the girl I would never see my wife and baby again."

Moore, who proved to be quite a fast talker, said at this phase he was so afraid that he would have admitted anything. He said he promised the officers that he would sign a statement admitting the crime.

"When we reached the Criminal Court's building," Moore said in concluding remarks, "one of the officers told me that if I didn't sign the written statement in the Sheriff's office, they would tie me behind a car and drag me over a gravel street until I was dead." 30e(2) Tex.

Both Sheriff Neal Polk and Klevenhagen took the witness stand and denied ever mistreating or threatening Moore in anyway what-so-ever. Sat. 5-10-47

Harris County Psychiatrist C. A. Dwyer said he had examined Moore both physically and mentally and added that the defendant did not have any outward signs on his body where he had been beaten recently.

Sheriff Neal Polk said he had told Moore of his constitutional rights—that of his rights to refuse signing the statement if he so desired—and the defendant had said he wanted to sign "and get it over with."

Preceding Moore to the witness stand, the defendant's 20-year-old wife, Mrs. Lena Mae Moore, said four officers had entered her home February 25 and searched all through the premises without a search warrant.

Finally, Mrs. Moore said, the officers found the silver plated pistol in her suit case. "Then one of them turned and slapped me," the young woman said.

All through the three day hearing Moore sat unemotionally chewing gum and occasionally whispering something in his lawyer's ear.

When the jury announced its verdict, he walked swiftly ahead of the baliff out of the court room to the jail.

On his face was a sickened smile.

Rape in Dixie--As Happens and Why It Usually

The Worker

HOUSTON, Tex.—On September 4 a white boy named Odway Stephenson, age 14, committed one of the most vicious crime of rape in the history of this state.

The crime was committed in the colored addition of Pelly, Texas, known as Tri-Cities Area. This is the story as told by the Negro boy whose name should not be disclosed: 30e(2)

"On September 4, which was Thursday, in the evening, my three sisters and I were coming down the Southern Pacific railroad track. We had been to Goose Creek to the picture show and were returning home. 10-5-47

"A white boy hollered, Stop, there, boy! I looked around and told my sisters to come on, let's go. The white boy had a pistol. He said, You heard what I said, boy. Stop. I told him, please don't shoot us. The Worker

"The white boy said, I won't if you mind me. Get over there in those woods by that wagon.

"We went over in the woods by the wagon. He told us to pull our clothes off. My three sisters pulled their clothes off, but I did not. The white boy made my two younger sisters, Christine and Orine (twins age 5) and me commit unnatural acts. He raped my oldest sister, Rosie Lee Jackson. When she hollered, he told her if she could not stand it to put some moss in her mouth."

New York N.Y.

THIS WAS the most vicious crime of rape I have ever heard of. I met the parents of the four Negro children, on Friday afternoon, Sept. 5. They told me what had happened to their children.

The mother said, "My children have been having fever all day. I wish I knew what to do to see that this white boy is punished for what he did to my children.

The father said, "I, too, but I don't know." New York N.Y.

I informed them that we have a local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Menair. If there was anything we could do to help them, we would be glad to do it. The father asked me to leave with him my address, which I did. On Saturday, he requested the help of the NAACP.

10-5-47

THE NAACP began proceedings immediately to see that there would not be a miscarrage of justice in this case.

The Menair NAACP made me responsible for seeing that justice was done. On Monday I took the mother and her son to the Harris County Probation Office. After reporting the incident to one of the officers, he promised her full cooperation in the case and requested that I bring all the children in for examination on Tuesday.

After examining the children, the doctor verified the statement that the oldest girl had been raped.

On Saturday, September 13, Odway Stephenson was tried in Probate Court and sentenced to reform school until he reaches 21 years of age.

WHILE WORKING on this case, I met three Negro women, whom the same white boy had attacked. But they were able to hold him off. One, a young lady on whom he drew his pistol, bluffed him off with an umbrella. Another who said she was 63 years old told me she shamed him for what he was trying to do and that he had just walked away and left her alone. The third said she was able to fight him off. She reported the incident to the police, white and Negro. But nothing was done.

If the police had picked this white boy up when they received this report, this would not have happened to these four Negro children.

★

WHY DID IT HAPPEN? In the Deep South the majority of white children in the South are taught by their parents that a Negro is a nigger or some kind of degenerate two-legged animal that is not to be respected. Due to the Jimcrow system of the South, the white children do not have the opportunity to associate with the Negro children and learn that the average Negro is as intelligent and has just as much right to respect as the average white person.

If Odway Stephenson had been taught this, if he had had the opportunity to associate with Negro children, he would have understood that they were human and that he could not do just anything to them and not be punished by law.

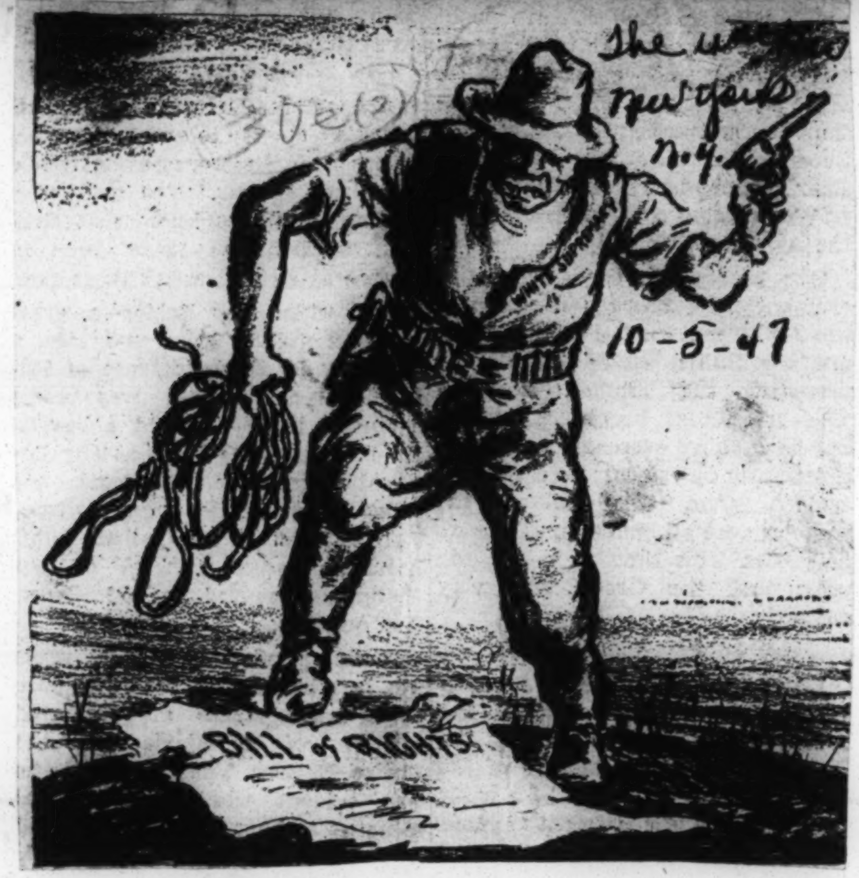
I was told that he made a frank statement of the things he did to the Negro children when he was picked up by the police, and only denied it when he realized that maybe he was going to be punished.

There is only one way to stop such crimes, and that is to do away with the vicious Jimcrow system of the South.

A WORKER'S LETTER TOLD THIS STORY.

A Rape case in the deep South
Why Did it Happen Tex
30e(2)
Worker, 10-5-47

On. Sept 4. A white Boy Age 14, Name Oduay Stephenson, Committed the most Vicious Crime of Rape that have ever been in the History of the ~~deep South~~ State of Texas. the Crime was Committed in the Colored addition of Pelly Texas known as the Tri Cities Area Dalls N.Y.



30e(2)
The W[illegible] New York N.Y.
10-5-47

Convict 2 White Cops For Rape

Louisiana Weekly

30e(2) New Orleans, La.

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 29 (ANP)—Two white Richmond policemen were found guilty of the rape of a 32-year-old Negro mother by an an all-white jury here last week and their punishment fixed at seven years in the state penitentiary. The incident was alleged to have occurred in the officer's patrol car when they offered to carry the victim home.

Patrolman Carl R. Burleson and Auxiliary Policeman Leonard E. Davis, the two convicted men, are free on a bond of $3,000 each subject to a hearing Feb. 21 on a motion to set aside the verdict.

Both officers were charged with the rape case by the complainant, who has two children, after she reported that they had placed her in their automobile, driven to the dead end of a street and attacked her in the early morning of Oct. 20, Sat. 2-1-47

Ravisher Dies In Chair After Commutation Denied

News 10-19-47

Fri. Birmingham, Ala.

30e(2)

RICHMOND, Va., Oct. 17—(AP)—Buford Russell Morton, 30-year-old Danville, Va., Negro, paid with his life in the electric chair today for raping a white woman, the mother of two, last May 9.

The Negro, whose appeal to the State Pardons Board for commutation of his death sentence to life imprisonment was denied last week, was convicted by a Danville Corporation Court last July.

At the two-day trial he told the court that he was not guilty of the crime in that force was not applied. He claimed he had provided liquor for the woman several times between March and May.

News Birmingham, Ala.

10-17-47 — Fri.

30e(2)

The 28-year-old woman said Morton was the man who attacked her on a dark street late at night and dragged her into neighboring woods, where he criminally assaulted her. She said she made her escape when he dozed.

Cop Guilty of Rape Is Ordered to Jail

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

30e(2)

Sat. 6-14-47

Put Behind Bars upon Failure to File Appeal; Second Man Still Sought

By Special Correspondent

RICHMOND, Va. — Failing to lodge his appeal for a new trial with the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, former Auxiliary Policeman Leonard E. Davis, 43, convicted of a charge of raping a 32-year-old woman in a police car, has been lodged in jail on order of Judge John L. Ingram, of Hustings Court.

At the same time, Judge Ingram continued until July 8 a hearing on forfeiture of a $3,000 bail bond for former Patrolman Carl R. Burleon, 28, who was convicted along with Davis. Sat. 6-14-47

Last March 21, when he refused to grant Davis a new trial, Judge Ingram did grant a say of execution of his penitentiary sentence to Davis until this month, pending the presentation of his case to the Supreme Court.

CONVICTED IN JANUARY

Davis and Burleson were convicted last Jan. 17 by an all-white jury that sentenced each of them to the penitentiary for seven years. The woman, mother of two children, said the two policemen raped her in a police car early in the morning of last Oct. 21 after offering to take her home.

She had left a party, she said, with a man who offered to drive her home. When he started to drive in the opposite direction a quarrel followed, she declared. The woman said the two policemen appeared during the argument and offered to drive her to her home and told her escort to "get going."

On the day they were convicted, Davis and Burleson, through their attorneys, made motions for new trials and Judge Ingram agreed to hear arguments on the motions on Feb. 21. C. B. Harmon, a contractor of 1429 Melton Avenue, who was a stranger to Burleson, signed the convicted policeman's bond for his appearance back in court. Davis' father, Thomas E. Davis, signed bond for his son's appearance.

SURRENDERS SON

Several days before Feb. 21 the elder Davis surrendered his son and he was lodged in jail, but Burleson remained free.

On Feb. 21 Davis was taken from jail to Hustings Court, but Burleson failed to show up. On March 21 Judge Ingram upheld the verdict against Davis and he gave notice of appeal to Supreme Court. Judge Ingram stayed execution of Davis' sentence until June 4. Davis' father posted a $4,000 bond for his son.

This week Davis' attorneys told Judge Ingram they had been delayed in filing the appeal with the Supreme Court but will file it within a week or ten days. Judge Ingram said he was without power to entend the stay of execution and would have to commit Davis to jail in spite of his bond.

Harmon has been cited to show cause why the bond he posted for Burleson should not be forfeited and it is that case that Judge Ingram continued until July 8.

Richmond police have sent circulars to all States and to several foreign countries offering a reward to $200 for information leading to his capture. Sat. 6-14-47

Meanwhile, from the jail, Davis has written an "open letter" to Burleson, urging him to "come back and show people you are a man and you will win, I'm sure."

Davis has had no reply and the reward circular has produced no results.

POLICEMAN TO PRISON:

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Begins 7-Year Term for Criminal Attack

30e(2) Va. Sat. 6-14-46

RICHMOND—Leonard E. Davis, 42, white, former auxiliary policeman, went to jail Wednesday to begin serving a seven-year prison term given him in Hustings Court Jan. 17 on charges of criminally attacking a 32-year-old mother of two children.

Whether Davis is freed from jail on bond or is transferred to the State penitentiary to serve out the remainder of his sentence will depend upon action of his attorneys, who have indicated that they will appeal to the State Supreme Court of Appeals and whether that tribunal grants him a writ of error.

The ex-police officer was convicted along with another regular officer, Carl R. Burleson, also white, by an all-white jury and sentenced by Judge John L. Ingram, but Burleson, 27, jumped bond while a hearing on a motion to set aside the verdict was pending.

30e(2) Va.

Still No Burleson

Hearing on that motion was set originally for Feb. 21, but when court was convened Burleson failed to put in an appearance, so a continuance to March 21 was granted to allow Burleson's bondsman time in which to produce him in court. On the latter date, there was still no Burleson.

At that time, however, attorneys for the pair indicated that they would appeal on behalf of Davis in the absence of the fugitive Burleson, so Judge Ingram stayed execution of sentence upon Davis until June 3 in order to give the lawyers time in which to perfect the appeal. Sat. 6-14-47

The June date being a holiday, the hearing was held next day (June 4). Informed that petition for appeal had not been filed, Judge Ingram told the attorneys he had no power to further extend Davis's stay of execution of sentence and ordered him to jail.

Must Remain in Jail

Should the Supreme Court grant him a writ of error, he would again be eligible to apply for his freedom on bond, pending the decision of that court on his case. Conversely, he will be transferred to the penitentiary should the writ be refused.

Both Davis and Burleson were released originally under $3,000 bond each following their conviction. Previously, they had been under $2,000 bonds, Davis's father Thomas E. Davis, withdrawing his $2,000 bond and surrendering his son to police when he apparently got wind of an escape plot.

After Burleson failed to appear in February, the bond was increased to $4,000 by Judge Ingram. Davis's father then posted the bond to secure the release of his son. Since that time, Davis had been free while officers sought to locate his alleged partner in crime.

The men were convicted on charges of taking the woman from her escort, driving her to a secluded spot near Brookfield Gardens in a police squad car last Oct. 20 and criminally attacking her in the city-owned automobile.

A series of continuances have been granted Burleson's bondsman, C. B. Harmon, on an order to show cause why his $3,000 real estate bond should not be forfeited. Sat. 6-14-47

Police say they have sought the fugitive both in this and other countries, but the FBI has not been called upon to aid in the search, so far is is known.

Young Mother Testifies

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Cops Get 7 Years In Attack Case

Sat. 1-25-47

30e(2)

(By Special Correspondent)

RICHMOND, Va.—Setting a precedent in the State of Virginia, an all-white jury in Hustings Court, deliberating for an hour and ten minutes, last Friday convicted two white police officers for criminally assaulting a 32-year-old colored mother, and sentenced them to seven years each in the State penitentiary.

The convicted men were Traffic Officer Carl R. Burleson, 27, and Leonard E. Davis, 43, an auxiliary officer. Attorneys for the Richmond officers immediately made a motion to set aside the verdict on the grounds that it was contrary to the evidence presented. Judge John L. Ingram, who heard the three-day trial, set Feb. 21 as the date on which he will hear arguments on the motion. Sat. 1-25-47

MOTHER OF TWO

Mother of two children, the woman testified that she attended a party at the home of Mrs. Rosa Leigh Page on Leigh Street last Oct. 19, and about 2:30 A. M. accepted the offer of Francis Hackett, 24, to drive her home. Mrs. Page, the hostess, testified that about a half hour later Hackett returned excited, took a few more drinks, and left again in his car.

Hackett stated in court that instead of taking the woman home, he drove in another direction with the intention of going to a night club, and the woman objected. During the argument, Hackett said, he slowed the car down and the woman jumped out. He then stopped the car and while talking to her the two policemen drove up.

Officer Burleson, who got out of the police car, wanted to know what the trouble was between them, and after talking with the couple told the woman to get into the cruiser, according to Hackett. Hackett then said he was told to drive home if he felt "able."

The woman's escort testified that he was "peeved" at this late development and attempted to follow the police car as it was being driven away from the direction of the woman's home. He was later arrested for drunk driving, following an accident after his second visit to the Page home.

30e(2) Va.

ATTACHED TWICE

Testimony by the assault victim was to the effect that she sat on the back seat of the car with Burleson while Davis drove out to a colored development called Brookfield Gardens. It was out there, she said, that while she "pleaded, begged and prayed," both officers raped her. She testified that Davis got out of the car and Burleson assaulted her, and then Burleson got out and Davis raped her.

The officers returned her to the city and let her out of the car at a point about three or four blocks from her home, she told the court.

The officers' trial versions of the incident were categoric denials of the attack, and suggested that they were accused in an attempt at "revenge" on the police department. Sat. 1-25-47

Wives of both officers sat through the three-day hearings. Besides being married, Davis is a grandfather. The seven-year sentences were imposed by the jury. Under Virginia law, juries decide both guilt and punishment.

The jury was selected from a panel of nineteen white men and one Negro. The colored juror was struck from the list by the defendants' attorneys.

Testimony Against Richmond Officers Upheld In Appeal

Daily World
Atlanta Ga

RICHMOND, Va. —(NNPA)— The testimony which led to the conviction in Hustings Court here of two white Richmond police officers for the criminal assault of a 32-year-old woman was "entirely credible," an attorney for the Commonwealth told the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals last Wednesday.

30e(2)

Earlier M. J. Fuller, attorney for Leonard E. Davis, former auxiliary policeman who was sentenced to seven years at the penitentiary for rape, had attacked the time element and most other circumstances surrounding the entire alleged attack as being "un-worthy of belief."

The arguments, which begun last Wednesday, were concluded last Thursday. Fri. 10-17-47

Ballar Baker, an assistant to the Attorney-General denied that the evidence indicated the woman's complaint was based on an attempt to "frame" the police for frustrating what the defense said was an attempt at illicit relations with a companion with whom she was returning from a party.

Davis' attorney had pointed out that the woman exhibited no torn clothing and had said she was not bruised. That very fact, said Mr. Baker, indicated that she was not attempting to frame the police. Had she been, he continued she could easily have supplied the torn garments and the bruises.

ACTED NORMALLY

The State charged that the woman had acted normally in seeking to escape from her companion who, she said, was trying to force her to accompany him against her will to a night club outside Richmond.

The woman had charged she was picked up by the police as she fled on foot from the car of her companion.

The attorney for the State told the court he planned to show the presence of "constructive force" after counsel for Davis declared that insufficient physical force was used to warrant conviction of the defendant and the second officer, Carl R. Burleson, who disappeared shortly after he had been placed under bond following his conviction in Hustings Court. Atlanta Ga

TIME ELEMENT

Davis' attorney, in attacking the time element, said more than 15 minutes lapsed between the time the woman and her companion left the party which they were attending, and the time when they were picked up by the officers a few blocks away.

White Officer Must Serve Seven-Year Prison Term

30e(2) Va.

Afro-American

Second Officer, Who Jumped Bond, Finally Located in Another State

Baltimore, Md

Sat 12-6-47

RICHMOND

The conviction and seven-year sentence of Leonard E. Davis, 43, white auxiliary policeman, for criminally attacking a 32-year-old mother of two children Oct. 20, 1946, was upheld Monday in an opinion handed down by the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

Curiously enough, the local police department released that same day information that Carl R. Burleson, 27, convicted with Davis on the attack charge and given a similar sentence, had been located in another State. 12-6-47

The unanimous opinion of the court (with exception of Justice Abraham Staples who did not participate) was written by Justice C. Vernon Spratley, who reviewed in considerable detail the evidence in the trial of Davis and Burleson.

Stresses Fact of Uniform

In his opinion, Justice Spratley stressed the fact that Burleson was in full police uniform and emphasized the fact that force used in a criminal attack may be either "active or constructive."

A woman is not required to resist to the utmost of her physical strength, the justice pointed out in his opinion, "if she reasonably believes that such resistance would be useless or that it would result in serious bodily injury to her."

The court added significantly:

"The motive in carrying her alone to the isolated spot was obvious. She was completely in the power of the officers. (It cited also the officers' threats, quoting them as telling her to "shut up if you know what's good for you.")

Cites Threats and Force

"The threats and show of force were calculated to cause her to reasonalby believe that they would do her serious bodily harm if she resisted them by such physical force as she possessed.

"The evidence thus meets all the requirements of unlawful sexual intercourse against the will and by force, all that is necessary to constitute the crime of rape upon an adult female.

"The jury was fully and correctly instructed, and there was sufficient evidence to justify the instructions. There was no error in refusing instructions offered by defendant. It, picked out one certain fact to the exclusion of all others and is argumentative."

Answering the attack on the credibility of the victim's testimony, the opinion cited the fact that "definite and specific details of each and every circumstance surrounding an act of the character here dscribed are not always to be expected." Sat.

Testimony Convincing

"The natural fright, emotion and excitement attendant upon such an attack and the desire to escape bodily injuries render the mind unreceptive to all matters, save the most pressing. However, (she) was able to specify the general location and to approximate the time fairly closely."

The young woman's actions after the attack, criticized bitterly and sarcastically by the defense, were characterized by Justice Spratley as those of "an outraged woman." He added:

"Her testimony was not shaken under vigorous cross-examination. There was no reason shown why she should tell a false story against the defendant (Davis) and involve herself in an unpleasant situation. Except for the night of Oct. 19-20, there were never any dealings between Davis and (she).

Concluding his opinion, Justice Spratley wrote: 12-6-47

"We find no error in the judgment. Affirmed."

Stili missing is Davis' co-defendant, Patrolman Carl R. Burleson, 28, who was also sentenced to serve seven years.

Man Convicted On Rape Charge

30e(2)

Daily World

RICHMOND, Va. Dec.—(NNPA)—Former Auxiliary Policeman Leonard E. Davis, white, convicted; on a charge of raping a 32-year-old colored woman by a Hustings Court jury, began serving a seven-year sentence in the penitentiary last Friday.

Atlanta

Asked by Judge John L. Ingram if he had any statement to make before beginning his term, Davis said he hoped "my family will live to see the day I can walk out of the penitentiary and prove to the citizens of Richmond that I am innocent I make this statement in this court before God Almighty."

Davis was convicted January 17 on the rape charge as was former Policeman Carl Burlson who disappeared and has not yet been located.

Atlanta Ga

Judge Ingram declined to set aside the verdict on March 21 but granted Davis a stay of execution of sentence pending his appeal to the Supreme Court. On November 17 the Supreme Court of Appeals upheld his conviction and Davis; who had been free under $4,000 bond, last Friday surrendered himself to the court.

Policeman Goes to Pen Denying Guilt

30e(2)

Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa
Sat. 12-20-47

RICHMOND, Va.—Declaring himself innocent "before Almighty God," former Auxiliary Policeman Leonard E. Davis, 44, convicted of a charge of raping a 32-year-old woman in a police car, surrendered in Hustings Court and started serving a seven-year penitentiary sentence imposed on him last Jan. 21 by an all-white jury.

Davis made his appearance in the court after the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals found no error in his trial and affirmed the decision of the lower court.

Asked by Judge John L. Ingram if he had any statement to make before he was taken to the penitentiary, Davis said:

"I hope my family will live to see the day I can walk out of the penitentiary and prove to the citizens of Richmond that I am innocent. I make this statement in this court before God Almighty."

THANKS JUDGE

Davis thanked Judge Ingram for a "fair trial."

Sat. 12-20-47

Until he appeared before Judge Ingram, Davis had been free under a $4.000 bond posted by his father.

30e(2) 1947

Wisconsin

7574

Judge, Giving Rape-Killers Life, Wishes It Were Death

30e(2)

Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

Wed 11-19-47

Madison, Wis., Nov. 18 (AP)—Four frantic days which began with an orgy of lust and murder ended today with life sentences for two young ex-convicts.

Buford Sennett, 22, and Robert Winslow, 24, who gave up last night after a 12-hour siege in a backwoods barn, heard Superior Judge Roy Proctor say he wished he might order them hanged, as he pronounced life sentences on both. Wisconsin does not have capital punishment.

The two had pleaded guilty to charges of first-degree murder in the hitchhike slaying Friday night of Carl Carlson, 25-year-old father and University of Wisconsin medical student. They also admitted raping Carlson's sister-in-law, but were not charged in this connection.

Body Recovered.

Carlson's body was recovered this morning at their direction, the warrants were issued, hearing was waived so guilty pleas could be entered, and sentence pronounced. The two were on their way to the prison at Waupun tonight.

The youths, informed of their rights after reading of the criminal information, declined legal counsel and entered their guilty pleas.

Wed 11-19-47

Carlson, a Navy veteran, called for his sister-in-law, Janet Ann Rosenblatt, 19, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, a student at the University of Michigan, at the depot last Friday night when she arrived in Madison to attend the Michigan-Wisconsin football game. They missed a bus and were hitchhiking to Carlson's home at Badger Village when they were picked up by Sennett and Winslow.

The girl told authorities in a statement later confirmed by both men, that Carlson was shot in the back of the head. His body was placed in the automobile trunk and both men then raped her. Carlson's body was weighted with a stone and dumped into a tributary of the Wisconsin River.

The car became mired and the girl escaped. A motorist who picked her up identified one of the men as they fled on foot.

Judge Proctor told the youths that never before in the state's history "has there ever been a more cold-blooded, cruel, and inhuman crime committed than this one which has been perpetrated by you two ruffians.

"Words fail me in an attempt to express my utter contempt and scorn for you.

"I don't believe I would have any qualms whatever if our Constitution provided that in cases like this I would have the power and authority to sentence you to the gas chamber, the electric chair, or to be hanged by the neck until dead."

30e(2)

Wed

Courier Journal Louisville, Ky.

Wed. 11-19-47

Associated Press Wirephoto.

BOOKED FOR MURDER . . . Buford Sennett, 22, left, and Robert Winslow, 23, are shown as they were booked for murder yesterday at Madison, Wis., by Dane County Jailer Donald Barry. At Barry's right is Sheriff E. A. Fischer.

Ex-Con Slayers Plead Guilty; Get Life Terms

Daily Worker [illegible]

MADISON, Wis., Nov. 18 (UP).—Two young ex-convicts who killed a university student and raped his coed sister-in-law Friday night pleaded guilty today to first degree murder and were sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor.

Wed 11-19-47

The killers are Buford Sennett, 22, Richland Center and Robert Winslow, 23.

30e(2)

They confessed last night, after a posse cornered and captured them on an isolated farm near Withee, Wis., that they had killed Carl L. Carlson, 25, a University of Wisconsin premedical student.

7575

11-Fingered Negro Has One Amputated To Enlist In Navy

Sat. 5-3-47

One little finger—an extra one—stood in the way of James Johnson, 17, Negro, Tarrant City, getting into the Navy.

So he went to a hospital and had it cut off.

And the Navy's going to accept him. Birmingham, Ala.

It all happened yesterday at the Navy Recruiting Station here. Lt. Herbert B. Strickland, the medical officer, found Johnson had one little finger too many.

"The Navy doesn't need but five," he told the aspiring recruit. "You'll have to get it cut off before you can get in."

Johnson made a trip to Hillman Hospital. He was back in an hour and half.

It will take a week for the amputation to heal. Then Johnson will be in the Navy.

One Officer, 1 Nurse 20,200 Enlisted Men in Navy Department

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The Navy Department now has only one officer, one nurse, and 20,200 colored enlisted men, while its total commission strength is 54,072 and its enlisted strength is 431,195 men, it was learned last Monday. Sat. 4-5-47

No colored candidate has yet been reported selected to attend officer candidate school from Navywide contests recently conducted, although more than 700 men took the examination. Lieut. Edward S. Hope, who was the Navy's highest ranking colored officer, is now teaching at Howard University. Sat. 4-5-47

Democratic Step

Navy Rescinds Dual Personnel System

The Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Sat. 3-22-47

By LEM GRAVES Jr., Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Following the lead of the Army in integrating Negro personnel insofar as enlistment requirements are concerned, the Navy Department has ordered that all referencs to special categories or special handling of Navy personnel be deleted from the Navy Manual which will be revised.

Prior to this new order, the Navy Manual carried a policy provision which stated that no personnel in the stewards' branch would be eligible for transfer to any other branch under any circumstances. This meant that no Negro, once he was accepted for the stewards' branch, could get a recommendation for transfer no matter what his talents or pre-Navy training happened to be.

KILLS PROVISION

The Navy recently issued an order that this section be deleted from the Navy Manual and that no reference to special categories be made. This revision constitutes the only Navy policy regarding Negroes, it was learned through the Navy Department here this week. Wherever references to any special category have been made in the Navy Manual, they will be removed. Sat. 3-22-47

The revised manual is scheduled to be published soon. Meanwhile, the complete integration of Negro personnel is being affected. There are reltively few Negroes now on duty in the Navy but it is believed that the Navy plans to continue the present integrated policy whenever enlistment is increased. At present only one Negro officer remains in the Navy. He is Lieut. D. D. Nelson, now stationed in the Navy Annex building here in the training division. He is not assigned to duties on the basis of his race, but handles all matters which come to his department.

7575

The Navy's Only Negro Bandmaster Is Honored Upon His Retirement

Defender Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 8-2-47

By MARTHA HURSEY

ST. THOMAS, V. I.—The only Negro bandmaster of the United States Navy, Chief Petty Officer Alton A. Adams, and 10 members of the first colored naval band were retired recently after 30 years of service.

Adams and his celebrated band of Virgin Islands musicians were the first to draw nationwide attention to what was then Uncle Sam's newest possession when they toured the Eastern Seaboard in 1924 and were enthusiastically acclaimed by musicians and laymen alike throughout the area.

The bandmaster was given a special letter of commendation for broadcasting work by the Radio Corporation of America following their tour. During its later years the group was cited in the Congressional Record for outstanding service and discipline.

Naval Officials Impressed

When the United States first bought the islands in 1917, naval officials administering them were so impressed with Adams Juvenile Band they had the entire group inducted into the Navy as a unit. Adams' relationship to the band was that of organizer, trainer and conductor. Sat. 8-2-47

Hailed as "A Tropical Music Genius" and "Sousa of His Race," he has also distinguished himself as a composer. Three of his marches are widely used in the United States, Canada and Europe. These are "The Spirit of the U. S. Navy," "Virgin Islands March" and "The Governor's Own." In 1924 the last was listed as one of the four leading American compositions of the year by the Carl Fisher Music House, New York.

Conducted In New York

During the tour the young artist conducted Edwin Franko Goldman's famed concert band before 40,000 on the Mall at Central Park in New York.

From his home in St. Thomas, Adams served seven years as editor of the Band Department of Jacobs Band Monthly, published in Boston. This post was the beginning of his prestige on the mainland. He relinquished it when the Navy commissioned him to organize bands in the Virgin Islands.

During his 13 years of inactive service in St. Thomas, until Pearl Harbor, he edited a daily newspaper for two years, did free lance writing, and organized and developed music in the islands' schools while donating his services as music supervisor. He has contributed to leading musical magazines for over 30 years. Sat. 8-2-47

Adams, whose slender athletic body belies his 57 years, has gained most of his musical knowledge through self-teaching. Private schools in St. Thomas provided all his classroom training.

He credits his love for music to his father who was adept on the guitar. His brother, Julian, was assistant leader of the famed Navy band.

The bandmaster's specialty instruments were the flute and piccolo and many of the band's concerts featured solo numbers by the conductor.

Highlighted among his thrills is the time when watching the 1924 Republican Convention's Parade in New York City, four or five bands marced along playing his composition, "The Governor's Own."

John Phillip Sousa, the March King, is listed as his chief benefactor. Along with other acts of recognition Sousa always included one of Adams' compositions during his annual concert at Willow Grove Park, Philadelphia.

Proving that time did take away his effectiveness Adams dedicated an impressive composition to President Roosevelt during his tropical visit in 1934.

Presently he lives with his family in a spacious home on one of St. Thomas' many hills. His household consists of his wife, sister, five daughters, two sons-in-law, and five grandchildren. His only son, Alton Jr., is a prep student in Main and plans to enter college next fall to study engineering.

Adams' study and living room are lined with autographed pictures of contemporary musicians and naval officers. An inspection of his scrapbooks reveal letters of recommendation from Prof. Clarke Edwin Franko Goldman and John Philip Sousa. Sat. 8-2-47

Correspondence from Eva Jesse Emmet J. Scott, Harry T. Burleigh, Hall Johnson, Dr. Nee Charlton, W. C. Handy, and Dr Clarence Cameron White also witness to his wide popularity.

He is not sure what he will do during retirement which began officially on June 1. But his friends say they won't be surprised to find frequent musical articles and perhaps a book, concerning folk music in the West Indies appearing under his authorship.

Dustin' off the NEWS

Chicago, Ill.

By LUCIUS C. HARPER

Defender

WILL WE KEEP OUR HISTORY IN THE NAVY FRESH?

Sat. 5-17-47

NOW THAT NEGROES who served on the seas during the recent World War are forming Navy Clubs throughout the country, it is fitting and proper that some members of these groups, or ships as they are called, undertake the task of writing the history of the Negro in the United States Navy. It has never been written. While much data is easily available and not catalogued away, someone should at least preserve the records of the black man's accomplishments in the last war.

Lucius Harper

Herbert Aptheker, a white man, has come closer to giving us some hitherto unknown facts on this particular subject than any other competent historian. His contribution to the January issue of the Journal of Negro History under the heading: "Negro Casualties in the Civil War," contains many startling and revealing paragraphs on the black man's connections with America's noteworthy naval engagements in the War of the Rebellion. We owe him a debt of gratitude for diligently digging in Navy archives at Washington and elsewhere and bringing these smothered facts to the present day printed page.

Chicago, Ill., Defender

The history of the Negro in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War and those following has been partially covered as to his military prowess, but facts have been sadly lacking, almost to the point of omission, concerning his services on the seas. Therefore, we are somewhat shocked when we learned that the total number of enlistments in the U. S. Navy during the Civil War from March 4, 1861 to May 1, 1865 was 118,044 Negroes. Their enlistment in the squadrons generally ran for one year. In the Navy Yards it ran three years.

• • •

MR. APTHEKER found from records in Naval War Records office that each war vessel docking for report during the Civil War had about one-fourth Negroes in its crew. Their duties of assignment ran from pilot, seaman, ordinary seaman, fireman and coal-heaver. It is presumed that from the casualties, as results of battles, these Negro Navy men did heroic duties with or around cannons during terrific sea engagements. The muster rolls of three arbitrarily selected vessels were examined. These were the U. S. Ship New Hampshire, for June 7, 1864, the Steamer Argosy for December 31, 1863, and the Ram, Avenger for October 1, 1864. Sat. 5-17-47

The New Hampshire's crew totaled 969 of whom 242 were Negres; the Argosy was 66 of whom 35 were Negroes; the total of the Avenger was 115 of whom 19 were Negroes. For the three vessels the total was 1,150 men of whom 296 or 26 per cent, were Negro. On the figures given out by Secretary of Navy Josephus Daniels as late as 1913, Mr. Aptheker learned that about one-fourth of the total reported battle casualties at sea were suffered by Negroes, or that of the 3,220 men listed as killed, wounded and missing, approximately 800 were Negroes. This, of course, does not include the Negroes who served on the sea in the Confederate fleet; and there were many.

We know a smattering of the gallant deeds performed by the Negro gunners under Commodore Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812, but the record of the Negro in the Navy in that war practically ends with Perry. It was he who said: "My Negro gunners seem insensible to danger." There were other vessels afloat then on which black men served, but the record has never come to light.

Sat. 5-17-47

ALL through these Navy records on the Civil War, Mr. Aptheker found Negroes appearing, but their color was not indicated. He had to check the muster-rolls of the vessels to ascertain racial labels. One Negro, severely wounded April 24, 1862 in exchange with the forts and batteries guarding New Orleans, was John Lawson. This same Lawson was aboard the battleship Hartford in the Mobile Bay engagement of August 5, 1864 and was wounded again. In this engagement he behaved so gallantly and distinguished himself in such a manner that he was recommended for, and did receive, the Congressional Medal of Honor. "Yet, in neither the printed report of the engagement nor in the official roster of winners of the nation's most coveted award," Mr. Aptheker tells us, "does it appear that this John Lawson was a Negro." When the muster-roll was checked on the Hartford, Lawson was found to be a black man. The same applied to William H. Brown aboard the Brooklyn in Mobile Bay, in the same battle.

Sat. 5-17-47

And so the record goes of the Negroes gallant services on the sea that will all be lost unless some competent historian of this day gets busy and preserve the records. In the recent World War here is a "starter" for someone who will tackle the task: For the first time Negro sailors were commissioned as officers; for the first time in its 176-year history, Negroes were admitted to the U. S. Marine Corps; for the first time Negro women were taken into the Waves and Spars; for the first time Negro sailors were sent to specialists' schools to learn skilled trades; for the first time a Negro was given command of a mixed crew on a patrol vessel; for the first time Negro nurses were taken into the Navy, and for the first time Negroes were taken into the Navy in all capacities without quotas in contrast to only 5,328 Negro sailors in World War I. And many other things have happened in the Navy regarding the Negro since I jotted down these in my memory book. This is a splendid job for someone who wants to earn a Ph.D. degree.

High Veneral Disease Rate, Statistics Say

Daily worker

Atlanta Ga.

34f

gen.

Sun. 10-5-47

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA

The venereal disease rate among colored Navy personnel in the continental United States is more than ten times the rate among white Navy personnel statistics released last Tuesday by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy Department showed.

The Navy statistics, computed on an annual basis, showed that the incidence rate of venereal disease among colored personnel is 484.5 per 1,000 while among white personnel it is only 46.9 per 1,000.

Breaking the statistics down by naval districts, the Bureau of Mediecine and Surgery reported that the highest rate of incidence is in the sixth naval district, comprising the states of South Carolina, Georgia, and a large part of North Carolina. In that district the rate among colored personnel was more than fourteen times that among white personnel.

Sun. 10-5-47

The lowest venereal disease rate was reported in the Great Lakes naval district comprising the states of Ohio Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota South Dakota and North Dakota. The rate in that district among colored personnel was 75.1 per 1,000, as compared with 45.2 per thousand among white personnel.

The statistics also showed that the incidence rate of tuberculosis among colored personnel was three times higher than among white personnel. The colored rate was 7.9 per 1,000, as compared with a white rate of 2.6 per 1,000.

Lautier Finds Variance In Report

34 f

gen.

Daily world

Atlanta

By LOUIS LAUTIER

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(NNPA)— The insistence of Lester B. Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban League that Navy treatment of its colored personnel is on an unbiased basis unapproached by the Army and Air Forces is not supported by the findings of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, a study of the report reveals.

Thur. 11-6-47

Mr. Granger said he thought Mr adviser to Secretary of Defense James B. Forrestal, held a press conference last Monday night to announce that he had persuaded Mr. Forrestal to alter his views respecting the appointment of a race relations adviser in the National Defense Establishment.

While he was Secretary of the Navy and since he has been Secretary of National Defense, Mr. Forrestal has been opposed to the appointment of a race relations adviser, Mr. Granger, however, persuaded him to designate James C. Evans, civilian aide to the Secretary of War, as an "adviser." Mr. Evans will serve in this capacity in addition to performing his regular duties as civilian aide to the Secretary of War.

Mr. Granger said he though Mr. Forrestal is very sincere on the matter of equalizing opportunities in the armed services and eliminating the stigma of race segregation.

He added that the Defense Secretary also is a "hard boiled realist" and knew what he could accomplish in the Navy with the support of the fleet commander and the chief of the bureau of Navy personnel and fixed as his goal the end of Jim Crowism in the Navy.

Mr. Granger said Mr. Forrestal does not feel that the situation is the same in the Army, the Air Force and Marine Corps, adding that race segregation was longer entrenched in the Army than it had been in the Navy and that at present there was no comparison between the treatment of colored personnel by Navy and that of the other services.

Conceding that Navy policy was good but expressing doubt about implementation of that policy and utilization of colored personnel, a reporter remarked that he had information that colored personnel had gone through elaborate training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station during the war but had not been even in a "row boat."

Mr. Granger replied that that was probably true until 1944 but after that that was no longer true.

NEW POLICIES Sat 11-6-47

The report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights pointed out that all of the armed force "have recently adopted policies which set as explicit objectives the achievement of equality of opportunity."

The committee, however, found that despite these policies "the records of the military forces disclose many areas in which there is a great need for further remedial action."

While in the Army the committee found that there was less than one colored officer for every seventy colored enlisted men in the Navy there were only two colored officers and a total of 21,793 colored enlisted men.

34f

30f(2) 1947

7576

7577

Negro Ministers To Demonstrate At Capitol

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

30f(2)

Tue. 11-4-47

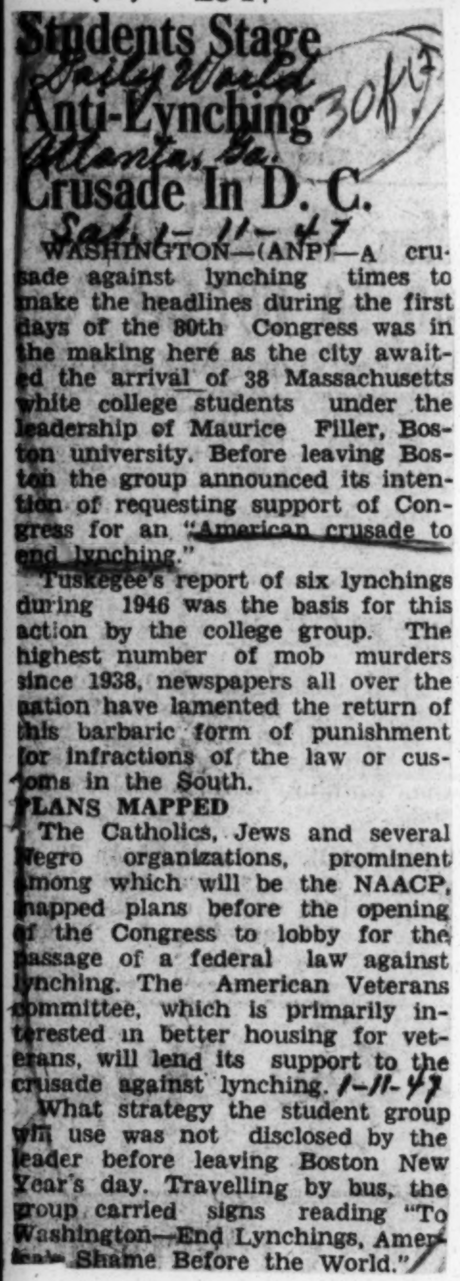
Philadelphia, Nov. 3 (AP)—Edgar G. Brown, Washington, director of the National Negro Council, said today an estimated 10,000 Negro ministers would hold a national antilynch and prayer day on the steps of the nation's capitol November 16.

The special session of Congress called by President Truman opens the next day. Tue. 11-4-47

The purpose of the capitol meeting, Brown said, is "to point up the President's committee report on civil rights, which recommended passage of a federal antilynch law by Congress." That report was made ~~last~~ Thursday.

American Crusade to End Lynching

7578



Students Stage Anti-Lynching Crusade In D. C.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
30f(47)
Sat. 1-11-47

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—A crusade against lynching times to make the headlines during the first days of the 80th Congress was in the making here as the city awaited the arrival of 38 Massachusetts white college students under the leadership of Maurice Filler, Boston university. Before leaving Boston the group announced its intention of requesting support of Congress for an "American crusade to end lynching."

Tuskegee's report of six lynchings during 1946 was the basis for this action by the college group. The highest number of mob murders since 1938, newspapers all over the nation have lamented the return of this barbaric form of punishment for infractions of the law or customs in the South.

PLANS MAPPED

The Catholics, Jews and several Negro organizations, prominent among which will be the NAACP, mapped plans before the opening of the Congress to lobby for the passage of a federal law against lynching. The American Veterans committee, which is primarily interested in better housing for veterans, will lend its support to the crusade against lynching. 1-11-47

What strategy the student group will use was not disclosed by the leader before leaving Boston New Year's day. Travelling by bus, the group carried signs reading "To Washington—End Lynchings, America's Shame Before the World."

30f(2) 1947

Anti-Lynch Bill

7576

ANTI-LYNCH BILL KISS-OFF SCORED

CIO News

Sharp protests against pigeonholing of anti-lynching bills were forwarded by CIO to GOP Congressional leaders as the first session of the 80th Congress moved into the homestretch last week.

30f(2)

In the month since introduction of bills in the Senate and House, CIO Legislative Director Nathan Cowan pointed out, "Congress has made no move to bring about the enactment of these bills into law, and no mention is made of passing an anti-lynch law in the program of 'must' legislation set forth by Republican leaders in Congress."

Mon. 7-28-47

Cowan's letter, addressed to Sen. Taft (R. Ohio) and Speaker of the House Joseph Martin (R. Mass.), charged that local law enforcement agencies have proved their inadequacy to the job of bringing lynchers to justice."

Charging that lynchings have risen in number since V-J Day, the CIO official declared:

"Failure of this session of Congress to pass a federal anti-lynching law will be interpreted as an indication of national indifference to this problem both by potential victims and by the inciters of race hatred and lynchings."

The bills introduced in House and Senate would make lynching a federal crime, with offenders brought into U. S. District Courts for trial. At present, such cases are heard in state courts.

Anti-Lynch Bill With 'Teeth' Sought By Two Senators

(Continued from Page 1)

Chicago Defender

Senate where Sen. Alben Barkley, Democrat of Kentucky, who was then Majority Leader, refused to push for its consideration on grounds that it was "impractical" to consider such legislation in the face of the acute international situation.

30f(2) anti-lynch

Define Lynching

The Wagner - Morse - Douglas-Case Bill defines lynching as "any violence" to person or property by a mob because of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry or language of the victim, or because the victim was suspected, accused, or convicted of a criminal offense. Sat. 6-7-47

The victim does not have to die in order to be "lynched" within the meaning of the bill. Any injury is sufficient.

Members of the lynch mob, or any person who aids or incites the mob, are made punishable by a maximum imprisonment of 20 years or a maximum fine of $10,000, or both.

Would Punish Officers

Dereliction on the part of state officers charged with responsibility of protecting the victim or apprehending the lynchers is made punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years or a maximum of $5,000, or both.

Every governmental subdivision of the state which wilfully or negligently permits an individual to be seized, abducted and lynched is required to pay to the lynched, if he lives, compensation of $2,000 to $10,000. If the lynch victim dies, these amounts go to his next of kin. Suits for compensation would be brought in a Federal District Court and prosecuted by the Attorney General of the United States.

Nation. New York, N.Y. Sat. 5-31-47

30f(2)

WHEN SOUTHERN FILIBUSTERERS PREVENT the passage of anti-lynching legislation, they always do so in the sacred name of states' rights. The states are dealing with the problem, they say, and progress is being made: Federal intervention would spoil everything and set the cause of justice back by decades. After what happened in Greenville, South Carolina, last week this approach should prove too brassy for even a Bilbo. Here were twenty-eight men convicting themselves and each other in written confessions; here was an excellent and able prosecutor, with all the evidence a prosecutor could desire; here was a courageous and impartial judge. But here was one thing more—a local white jury. All twenty-eight were acquitted. This is no question, then, of perverted officials, poll-tax politics, or any of those other simple phenomena by which glib Northerners explain the South and for which they offer equally simple solutions. The defendants are local heroes. Among the defense attorneys, moreover, was a local C. I. O. counsel, a man considered one of the town's liberals; yet his courtroom behavior was as rabid as his colleagues'. And several of the acquitted lynchers plan to run for public office—probably for sheriff. Clearly, then, the lynching was not an aberration but an expression of the spirit of Greenville. It will take years of slow social change to alter that spirit. But in the meantime what of the potential victims of lynch law? They are citizens of the country and entitled to its protection. Since the state is unable to assure that protection, the federal government must. Federal courts are able to draw on jury panels covering a much wider area than state courts and can thus escape in some measure the effects of local feeling. But federal civil-rights statutes will have to be greatly strengthened before the Greenvilles of the South will learn that they are part of the United States.

Nation. New York, N.Y. Sat. 5-31-47

30f(2)

Permission to Pray on Capitol Steps Seen as Precedent

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

30f(2)

WASHINGTON

Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro Council, said Monday that the architect in charge of Capitol grounds had given official permission for Sunday's prayer meeting on the Capitol steps. Sat. 11-15-47

It is the first time in history that such permission has been granted to citizens to pray at the Capitol before the opening of Congress.

Anti-Lynch Bill Draws Support

P.M. New York

30f(2)

WASHINGTON

Sen. Albert W. Hawkes (R., N. J.), sponsor of one of several pending anti-lynching bills, said he had lined up the support of Republican leaders for an attempt to get his measure passed at the next session

The Hawkes bill would provide fines up to $5000 and five years imprisonment for officials who neglect to take all possible precautions against lynchings. Previous anti-lynching bills have been approved by the House; but have died in the Senate as a result of filibusters or threats of filibusters by Southern Senators.

GOPers Press For Anti-Lynching Bill

30f(2)

Birmingham News Ala.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2—(AP)—The Republican leadership in the Senate plans to press for enactment of federal anti-lynching legislation next year, Sen. Hawkes (R., N. J.) said.

The New Jersey senator is the author of a bill which would provide fines up to $5,000 and imprisonment for five years for officials who do not make all diligent efforts to protect a person from lynching. Tues. 12-2-47

"I have discussed this important bill with senatorial leadership and have been assured that it will be given a position on the Republican legislative program for 1948." Hawkes said in a statement. It mentioned Chairman Taft (R., Ohio), of the GOP policy committee; Chairman Wiley (R., Wis.), of the judiciary committee, and Chairman Ferguson (R., Mich.), of a judiciary subcommittee considering the measure.

Anti-Lynch Law Plea Filed with GOP

P.M. Mon.-11-17-47

30f(2)

By United Press

WASHINGTON

A petition urging Congress to enact a Federal anti-lynching law was presented to House Speaker Joseph W. Martin, Jr. (R., Mass.) yesterday at a rally and prayer service held on the steps of the Capitol by the National Negro Council.

Martin commended leaders of the council for their "reverent and inspiring" service, and promised to submit the petition to the House Republican Steering Committee for action "immediately."

The council said the petition bore 5 million signatures. It called for passage of a law imposing the death penalty on convicted members of lynch mobs, and a fine of $25,000 on the county in which the lynching took place. New York N.Y.

Antilynch Forces to Pray 6 Hours on Capitol Steps

30f(2)

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

A national antilynching rally has been set for six hours, beginning at 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16, on the steps of the Capitol.

Sponsors are the National Negro Council and ministers from several Seaboard cities.

Co-chairman are the Revs. Robert M. Williams, president of the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, and the Rev. Earl L. Harrison, pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, both here.

Must Get Action

Said Edgar G. Brown, director of the Council, "The President's Civil Rights Committee recommended a Federal antilynching law. We must pray that Congress will enact this legislation at once.

"We cannot use our energies trying to save Koreans in Asia, when we cannot prevent lynchings of women and war veterans at home." Sat. 11-15-47

Religious organizations in Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia and New York have endorsed the movement to pray and sing six hours on the steps of the Capitol, the day before Congress meets in

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bequeathed to his sons and stock in the Liberty Life Insurance Co., went to his granddaughter, Barbara Gandy.

33 Va Sat. 11-15-47

The estate includes less than $100 due from the college for salary, $150 in the credit union, $400 in Liberty Life Stock, and a small amount of cash in the bank.

Big Policies Hinted

Though the estate is small, an AFRO reporter was informed that Dr. Gandy left a substantial amount of money in life insurance policies that are not mentioned in the will, and that his widow holds in fee simple a lot on which the Gandys planned to build.

Asked the approximate amount of the proceeds from life insurance, the AFRO's informant refused to hazard a guess, stating simply, "he left her well fixed."

Anti-Lynching Law

Record

30f(2)

The Republican Senate leadership is planning to press for the enactment of a federal anti-lynch law next year, Senator Hawkes of New Jersey announces. Columbia, S.C.

And this, of course, is not news. It depends upon what Senator Hawkes, who is an author of one of the several pending anti-lynching bills, means by the announcement. Thu. 12-4-47

Next year is an election year and every election year the Republicans, when they are in control, or the Democrats, if they control, put on a show of pressing for the enactment of a federal anti-lynch bill. The bill passes the House and then it is killed by a Southern filibuster in the Senate. The Republicans and, or the Democrats from east and west get a chance to fill the Congressional Record with speeches denouncing lynching, always, of course, with an eye on the Negro vote which if the Negroes voted as a bloc in some northern states could be decisive.

They do not quite press the bill to enactment. That would eliminate it as a campaign issue for future elections.

12-4-41

So Senator Hawkes needs to be more specific. Does he mean that next year the Senators will resort to cloture to prevent the Southern filibuster from succeeding? Does he mean that the Republicans actually intend to see the anti-lynching law enacted next year or does he mean only that they want to put on an exhibition of support for it, without making it a law? These questions need to be cleared up. They are the essense of Senator Hawkes' announcement.

The enactment of a federal anti-lynching law will, of course, do no good. It may do some harm, but not so much as once it would have. The south is growing out of its xenophobiac reaction to such federal interference in state affairs. It doesn't expect anything else now and it knows that no conviction can be had under federal laws that would not have resulted under state laws, the jurors in both cases being citizens of the state in which the lynching, if there be a lynching, occurs.

The enactment of a federal anti-lynching law would, also, handicap those in the south, and they are many and the majority, who are opposed to lynching, but not so much as once it would have. It is more difficult now to work up even an emotional defense of lynching in the south and easier to mobilize public opinion against the lynchers. The job would be a bit more difficult when the federal anti-lynching bill is law for then the task would be to mobilize public opinion not only against the lynchers, but also in favor of federal intervention in one variety of murder and not the variety of the highest frequency. But this isn't impossible. The type of person who in the south or north or west takes to murder isn't the type of person which whom good citizens generally associate.

And so The Record would be in favor now of the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law, if for no other reason than to eliminate the issue from national politics—if it didn't know that the Republicans and, or the Democrats would manufacture another issue to accomplish the same purpose. Its enactment would prove the futility of such political legislation.

Man Lynched in Ga. Jail As New Fear Grips South

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier 30 f(2)

Sat. 6-7-47.

Cries for immediate passage of a Federal anti-lynch law became louder this week as the reign of terror continued to sweep Southern States. Another Negro was reported lynched last week . . . this time in a jail cell in Georgia. This mob attack came on the heels of the Greenville (S. C.) lynching and the attempted lynching at Jackson, N. C. In between these outbursts of violence, the Ku Klux Klan came out of hiding and set up a blazing cross on the lawn of a doctor's home in Knoxville, Tenn. In an effort to check this reign of terror, Senators Robert F. Wagner, Democrat of New York, and Wayne Morse, Republican of Oregon, last week introduced in the Senate an anti-lynching bill providing heavy penalties for persons convicted of mob violence or aiding or abetting such violence. Difficult problem, however, is that Southerners are objecting to Federal intervention, and in most cases are protecting the mobsters.

30f(2) 1947

Anti-Lynching Bill

7579

NEW ANTI-LYNCH BILL

World Memphis

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA) Representative F. A. Mathews, Republican, of New Jersey, introduced an antilynching bill in the House last Wednesday. 30f(2) [illegible]-47

Powell Introduces Lynch Bill

30f Discussion Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Fri. 1-10-47

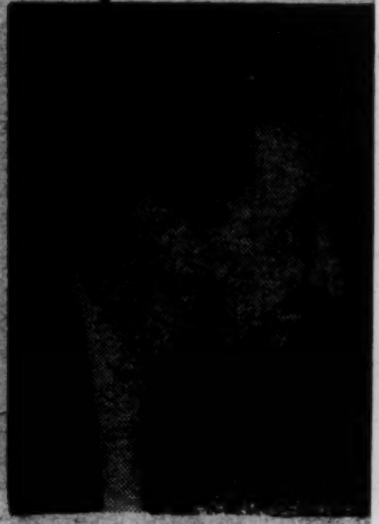
WASHINGTON—(ANP)—An anti-lynching bill was introduced in the house of representatives here last week by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (N. Y., D.) with provision for heavy fines for local officials who fail to protect citizens from mob violence. The bill is similar to other anti-lynching legislation previously introduced in the house, but which perished directly or indirectly by filibusters. 1-10-47

Powell Files Anti-Lynching Measure in New Congress

30f(2) Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Daily Worker Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—One of the first bills introduced into this session of Congress was an anti-lynching measure by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, the fighting Negro of New York. The bill makes lynching a crime, holds state and federal employes responsible for preventing lynchings, gives the Attorney General power to investigate and provides for payment of $2,000 to $10,000 to the next of kin of victims. March 1-6-47



REP. POWELL.

Submits Anti-Lynching Bill

State or federal employes who fail to protect lynch victims would be punished with fines of $5,000 and imprisonment of five years. The Attorney General is granted the power to sue in U. S. District Court in behalf of next to kin claimants to compensation. The action, however, could not be taken within the territorial jurisdiction of defendant governmental divisions.

"Fifteen million Negroes are carefully watching along with millions of democracy-loving whites—all watching to see that a real program protecting the civil rights of American citizens is instituted," Powell commented.

"The next move is up to the Republicans," he said, because the GOP now controls Congress with a clear cut majority. March 6-47

Powell introduced his bill as Anti-Lynch Crusaders visited Congressmen and Senators demanding passage of a measure with teeth in it.

New Lynch Bill Offered

PM

Discussion 30f(2)

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

A new anti-lynching bill, broader and with sharper teeth than similar measures advocated in the past, was introduced in the House yesterday by Rep. Clifford P. Case (R., N. J.). New York, N.Y.

The bill is backed by the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, and broad support is expected from church groups, unions, and civil rights organizations.

The bill would make lynching a Federal felony, punishable by prison terms of 20 years and $10,000 fines. It defines a lynch mob as an aggregation of two or more persons committing illegal violence against the person or property of citizens, and thus would apply to race violence in New York and other Northern areas as well as in the South.

In addition to heavy penalties against members of lynch mobs and those who "aid or abet" such mobs, the bill would impose criminal penalties on State or local officials who fail in their duty to prevent lynchings. It also would permit damage suits against a community for "willful neglect" that makes possible a lynching. Fri 5-16-47

Afro-American [illegible]

GOP LEGISLATORS INTRODUCE TWO ANTILYNCHING BILLS

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Antilynching bills were introduced in the Senate last Wednesday by Sen. William F. Knowland (Rep., Calif.) and in the House last Monday by Rep. George H. Bender (Rep., Ohio). 30f Baltimore, Md.

Revive Drive to Pass Federal Anti-Lynch Bill

Daily Worker 30f(2) New York N.Y.

By Rob F. Hall

WASHINGTON, May 23.—The South Carolina verdict freeing 28 lynchers and news today of a new lynching in Jackson, N. C., have given powerful impetus to a revival of the drive for federal anti-lynching legislation here. Leslie Perry, legislative representative of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, announced he is mailing out hundreds of copies of HR 3488, a measure providing federal action against lynchers, introduced in the House last week by Rep. Clifford Case (R., N. J.).

Labor, church, farm, Negro and progressive organizations are urged to throw their support behind this measure which was drafted by the NAACP, Mr. Perry said. A senator is being sought to sponsor the bill in the upper chamber, he said.

Commenting on the South Carolina trial and the North Carolina lynching, Rep. Adolph Sabath (D., Ill.), 80-year-old dean of the House, told the Daily Worker federal legislation is "absolutely necessary."

"We cannot let this kind of thing go on," he said. "The good people of the South do not sanction these things. But elements like Rankin (Rep. John E. Rankin, D., Miss.) create feelings and prejudices which are alarming."

EMPHASIZES NEED

Rep. Vito Marcantonio (A.L.P., N. Y.) said the Greenville verdict re-emphasizes the need for immediate adoption of federal anti-lynching legislation.

"It is regrettable that nothing has been done up to now by Congress despite the promises of the Republican Party. The truth is the people cannot depend on the leadership of either the GOP or the Democratic Party. The demand must come from every decent person in America demanding immediate action."

Marcantonio is the sponsor of HR 7, the anti-poll tax bill. So far only 28 Congressmen have signed discharge petition No. 2 to bring the bill to a vote, he said.

Rep. William L. Dawson (D., Ill.) told the Daily Worker "the latest atrocity in North Carolina demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt the necessity of federal anti-lynching legislation." Sat 5-24-47

Rep. August Kelley (D., Pa.) agreed the new lynching emphasizes need for speedy adoption of a bill.

In New Orleans, Clark Foreman, president of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, declared "the Republican Congress and the administration now have a chance to show whether their sympathies are with the oppressed or the lynchers." He said his office has been bombarded by appeals from the people of South Carolina and other Southern states since the Greenville verdict urging the SCHW to work for federal anti-lynching legislation "to restore law and order to the U. S." Sat 5-24-47

7579

Toward a Federal Lynch Law

30f(2) Constitution

The Atlanta Constitution has opposed a Federal lynch law in the past and still maintains that position. We took that position for one, and only one, reason. It was that the States themselves were committed to enforce their laws and that to ask for a Federal law to cover local crime was an admission of a moral breakdown on the part of the State, its law enforcement machinery and its judiciary.

Atlanta, Ga.

It seems to us an awful and humiliating confession for a people of any State to make—that a Federal law is needed to bring about enforcement of State laws.

Yet it becomes painfully clear that we are moving inevitably toward a Federal lynch law. When, and if, it comes, the fault will be our own.

The Walton County killings in Georgia shocked the moral consciousness of the State and Nation. The fact that there was very little co-operation with those seeking to find the guilty was a great impetus for a Federal law.

Now comes the Greenville case, across the line in South Carolina.

A man was murdered.

No one has been, or will be, punished for the murder.

Not only that, but an assault on one of the State witnesses followed hard on the heels of the acquittal. While grateful a trial was held, the national moral conscience again is shocked.

It is a curious thing to consider. If a kidnaper were to come and kidnap a child in any State, there would be a clamorous appeal for help from the FBI, the Department of Justice and any and all police agencies.

If a bank be robbed, public opinion supports the assistance of any police force from whatever section.

But if lynchers commit a murder, however shocking, there are always those who resent, and make political capital, of any Federal investigation.

That is a fantastic paradox and it cannot much longer endure.

Unless the people demonstrate a willingness to uphold the law against lynching we cannot and should not escape a Federal law. Fri 5-23-47

Let all those who believe in the sovereignty of the several States look to it.

Federal Anti-Lynch Law Demanded

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

30f (2)

Acquittal of the South Carolina lynchers of Willie Earl was blasted yesterday from all sides in New York. Prominent leaders were practically unanimous in urging federal action against lynching.

Dr. Max Yergan, chairman of the National Negro Congress, saw it as "a crime against all Americans" and "final proof that Negroes can expect no justice under the laws of the South." Dr. Yergan recalled the recent acquittal of the Minden, La., lynchers and unsolved Monroe, Ga., mass lynching. "We must make the federal government act to protect its citizens," he declared.

Osmond K. Fraenkel, member of the board of the American Civil Liberties Union, thought the verdict "disappointing." Fraenkel, who once helped defend the Scottsboro boys, thought the Carolina jury's action did not uphold "the vigorous efforts made at prosecution by the State's authorities."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People declared, "Notice has been served to Negroes in South Carolina and throughout the South that they are now at the mercy of mobs. Unless we can secure federal legislation it is entirely possible that some Negroes abandoned to mobs by the law may be forced in their desperation to devise means of protecting themselves."

"It is an international disgrace and a crime against the nation," declared Communist Councilman Benjamin J. Davis. "After lynching Willie Earl they've now lynched justice."

Councilman Davis, who defended Angelo Herndon in Georgia during the Thirties, said the verdict "is a go ahead signal for an orgy of lynch terror." He called for "the growing Negro and white unity which forced the lynchers to trial" to "rise to new heights and force the people's will for the re-arrest of the lynchers."

Paul Robeson, Negro people's leader and artist, put the "blame for the outrageous verdict . . . on the federal government." Robeson said this was so because of the lack of "legislation against the fascist elements in America."

Friday

"When 28 self-confessed lynchers can be freed . . . it is high time our government spokesmen stop declaring that the United States is the champion of democracy and freedom for Greeks, Turks and other peoples," he declared. 5-23-47

FEDERAL CIVIL ACTION IN LYNCHING STUDIED

New York, N.Y.

KANSAS CITY, May 24 (AP)—Attorrney General Tom Clark said here today that he would make an immediate investigation into the possibility of civil action in the "outrage in South Carolina where a jury turned loose admitted lynchers."

30f (2)

"I want to look through the facts in the case when I return to Washington," he said in an interview.

He said there was no evidence to indicate that any state officers were involved in the case.

What he wants to do is determine whether a strong enough case can be developed to get the Federal courts to rule on whether mob action, depriving a man of his life, can be prosecuted under the Federal civil rights statutes.

Sun 5-25-47

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 24 (AP)—Thomas Wofford, leading defense attorney for twenty-eight white men who were acquitted this week of lynching a Negro, said Attorney General Tom Clark might invoke Federal prosecution "but they'll never get our boys back into court."

"It was a fair trial," he said. "The jury passed on the law and the evidence, and returned an acquittal. How are they going to get around that? There's no possible Federal violation of civil rights."

30f (2)

Mrs. Tessie Earle, mother of Willie Earle, whose lynching was followed by the acquittal last week of twenty-eight men accused of the crime, arrived here yesterday from Greenville, S. C. She is expected to remain in New York about a week, and will speak before various civic and religious organizations. Next Tuesday night Mrs. Earle wil ltell the story of the lynching at a meeting in Madison Square Garden under the auspices of the National Negro Day Committee. Sun. 5-25-47

U. S. Lynch Law Seen by McGill

Constitution

INDIANAPOLIS, May 24—(UP) Editor Ralph McGill, of The Atlanta Constitution, said Saturday that opponents of a Federal lynch law have been "pushed into a corner where it is no longer possible to defend our position."

Speaking at the thirteenth annual meeting of the Hoosier State Press Association, McGill mentioned slayings in Georgia and South Carolina.

30f (2)

"We who opposed a Federal lynch law because to support one would be an admission that the moral strength of a State so acting was not strong enough to support its own law and law enforcement bodies, are pushed into a corner where it is no longer possible to defend our position," he said.

Atlanta, Ga.

"Yet it is important to notice that a trial was held. A few years ago no trial would have been held."

. . .

Regarding the problems of the South, McGill said more newspapers there were "boldly and vigorously attacking their own peculiar problems" than in any other region. Sun 5-25-47

"Where a quarter century ago there was one newspaper and one minister speaking out against hate organizations such as the cowardly and despicable KU Klux Klan and similar organizations, there today are 10," he said.

INTRODUCES ANTILYNCH BILL—Rep. Clifford P. Chase (Rep., N.J.), who introduced a Federal antilynching bill in the House of Representatives Thursday. The measure would make it mandatory that next of kin of a lynch victim be paid a minimum of $2,000 and a maximum of $10,000.

Baltimore, Md.

30f (2)

Will It Pass?

Senate Gets New Anti-Lynch Bill

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

30f (2)

Sat. 6-7-47

WASHINGTON—(NNPA) —Senators Robert F. Wagner, Democrat of New York, and Wayne Morse, Republican of Oregon, last Tuesday introduced in the Senate an anti-lynching bill providing heavy penalties for persons convicted of mob violence or aiding or abetting such violence.

Anti Lynching Bill Author Claims S. C. Trial Reveals Need

30f (2)

WASHINGTON, May 23, (AP)—Rep. Clifford P. Case (R-NJ), author of an anti-lynching bill now before Congress, said today the Greenville, S. C., mass lynching trial "seems to indicate the necessity for such legislation." Jersey Union

Case said a section of his bill providing civil damages of $2,000 to $10,000 for the victim of a lynching or his survivors "would in itself be a deterrent aggainst such crimes and alleviate part of the hardships caused by lynchings."

The Case bill would make local communities liable for damages for lynchings occuring in the community or abduction of a person in the community who is lynched elsewhere. Sat. 5-24-47

Case told a reporter:

"I don't know whether Federal law would be more enforceable than state law insofar as punishing the perpetrators of a lynching. You would still have local people sitting on the jury. But the section of the bill providing for civil damages would be enforceable."

Long Awaited Antilynch Bill Reaches House

Afro-American

30f

Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

Rep. Clifford P. Case (Rep., N.J.) introduced in the House last Thursday the long-awaited new and strengthened antilynching bill, which later was referred to the Judiciary Committee, of which he is a member.

The Case Bill, it was pointed out, would provide heavy criminal penalties for any member of a lynch mob or any other person wilfully involved in a lynching. State and local officials, and neglect by the local community, would all become liable to the lynch victim or his family, if killed. Sat. 5-24-47

Lynch Curb?

Anti-Rape Measure Proposed

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

30f (2)

Sat. 6-21-47

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—A proposal to attach an amendment to the anti-lynch legislation which would afford protection to victims of rape was proposed here by Representative Monroe H. Redden (D., N. C.) Sat. 6-21-47

Speaking before the House, Representative Redden declared: "The cry goes out that we need anti-lynching legislation. I shall certainly favor it. I think it would also be well to have some Federal anti-rape legislation."

Case Bill Would Reduce Lynching

Afro-American

30f (2)

WASHINGTON

Baltimore, Md.

Discussing provisions of his antilynching bill now before Congress, following acquittal last week of 28 lynch suspects in Greenville, S.C., Rep. Clifford P. Case (Rep., N.J.). said his measure contains a clause which he believes would hit Southern justice where it hurts. Sat. 5-31-47

The Case bill would make local communities liable for civil damages of $2,000 to $10,000 for a lynch victim or his survivors.

"I don't know," said the Congressman, "whether Federal law would be more enforceable than State law insofar as punishing the perpetrators of a lynching is concerned."

30f (2)

"You would still have local people sitting on the jury. But the section of the bill providing for civil damages would be enforceable.

"It would in itself be a deterrent against such crimes and alleviate part of the hardships caused by lynchings."

(In order to get action on the Case bill, wire or write the author; Rep. Earl C. Michener (Rep., Mich.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; or Rep Joseph Martin (Rep., Mass.), Speaker of the House, at the House Office Building, Washington, D.C.)

Religious Group Backs Antilynch Legislation

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK. Charging that police of Southern states are "flagrantly derelict" in preventive action, the Protestant Council's Human Relations Commission announced, this week, it was supporting the Case-Douglas-Wagner Morse Federal Antilynching Bill.

The legislation (H.R. Bill 3488 and S. Bill 1352) provides criminal penalties for local officials who fail to prosecute lynchings.

30f(2) 1947

Anti-Lynch Bill

7580

Majority In North, South Favor U. S. Action Against Lynching

Birmingham, Ala. News . Wed. 7-2-47

30f(2)

BY GEORGE GALLUP

Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J., July 2—In the wake of the Greenville, S. C., lynching trial, public sentiment throughout the country endorses the idea of a federal anti-lynching law, judging by the results of an Institute poll.

A majority of voters polled in the 13 Southern states say they would approve having the federal government step in and take action if local authorities fail to deal justly with a lynching.

A federal anti-lynch bill providing criminal penalties against local officials failing to prosecute lynchings has been proposed in Congress. Wed. 7-2-47

To measure the general public attitude toward the principle of federal action, the institute questioned a true cross-section of voters in all 48 states on the following:

"At present, state governments deal with most crimes committed in their own state. In the case of a lynching, do you think the United States government should have the right to step in and deal with the crime if the state government doesn't deal with it justly?"

The vote:

Yes	69%
No	20
No opinion	11

Voters polled in the South showed a smaller vote in favor, as follows:

Southern Voters	
Yes	56%
No	35
No opinion	9

THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS feel that a federal anti-lynch statute would serve to discourage lynchings and thus reduce their number. This belief is shown in response to a second question in the poll, as follows: Wed. 7-2-47

"Do you think this would reduce the number of lynchings in the United States or would it make little difference."

Would reduce	60%
Little difference	24
No opinion	16

In the South, however, opinion is more closely divided about the effectiveness of a federal law in reducing lynching.

Southern Voters	
Would reduce	48%
Little difference	37
No opinion	15

* * *

IN A COMPANION POLL, the institute sounded the reactions of all sections, including the South, to the recent Greenville lynch case, in which a group of 31 defendants accused of lynching a Negro were acquitted.

It was found that three out of every four voters had heard or read of the Greenville affair. When asked their opinion of the outcome of the case, voters in South and in the rest of the country expressed disapproval of the acquittal verdict.

Wed. 7-2-47

	All Voters	South Only
Disapprove of verdict	70%	62%
Indifferent	3	2
Approve of verdict	12	21
No opinion	15	15

* * *

ONCE BEFORE, in 1940, Congress debated an anti-lynch bill to provide federal penalties of local police officers who failed to protect a prisoner from a lynch mob, and to make a county where a lynching occurred pay a fine of $10,000 to the victim's family.

When the institute polled the country on the Gavagan bill, as the measure was called, it was found that 50 per cent favored passage, 41 per cent were opposed to the bill.

Picket GOP, Demos; Assail Lynch Terror

Daily Worker. New York, N.Y.

30f(2)

Fri. 5-30-47

Twin demonstrations before the headquarters of the Republican and Democratic parties here yesterday assailed the increasing terror against the Negro people in the South and demanded a special session of Congress to pass anti-lynch legislation.

Three hundred marched in each of the spirited mass picket lines at the Roosevelt and Biltmore hotels in the mid-town area. The demonstrations were called by the New York State Communist Party.

While homeward bound rush hour crowds paused to listen to the slogans and read the signs carried by the pickets, delegations entered the hotels to visit national leaders of both parties. Fri. 5-30-47

The experience of both groups was the same. Although appointments had been requested no one was on hand to receive the delegations.

LEAVE STATEMENTS

Statements condemning the mounting violence and demanding a re-trial of the 29 self-confessed Greenville, N. C. lynchers of Willie Earle, acquitted last week, were left with secretaries. Copies had previously been sent to President Truman, Gov. Dewey, J. Carroll Reece, GOP National Committee chairman and Gael Sullivan, Democratic National Committee chairman.

The statement to the Republican Party leaders, submitted by Simon W. Gerson, leader of delegation, placed responsibility for the present lynch terror on the GOP. Noting that the party platform has "repeatedly included a Federal Anti-Lynch Law" the Communist statement charged "you have repeatedly failed to keep your election promises." Fri. 5-30-47

"Your excuse has been that the Democratic Party controlled the Congress of the United States. Well, gentlemen, your Party has the power and the votes to pass anti-lynching legislation."

The statement recalled Dewey's whitewash of policeman Romeike, Freeport cop who murdered the two Ferguson brothers last year,

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Varied Group Of Notables Seeks Action

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Sat. 7-5-47 30f(2)

WASHINGTON.— (ANP) — Savannah Churchill, popular singer, pleaded with the citizens of Washington to unite themselves in an effort to combat lynching in this country.

Appearing before 500 citizens who had gathered in an open-air anti-lynch mass meeting Friday evening, sponsored by the National Negro Congress, Miss Churchill said the American citizens are "a little tired" of the things which are going on in this country. Liberal-minded people must unite themselves to stop the terrible crimes among people of a country where the majority want only peace and happiness.

MANY NOTABLES

Other speakers on this program were Clark Foreman, president of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare; Daniel Schwartz, United Public Workers of America, CIO; Harry Rosen, secretary of the Washington chapter American Youth for Democracy; Henry Thomas and William Johnson from the Builders Union, AFL, and C. Reginald Audrick, attorney for NNC.

Each of these speakers struck terrific blows at the evils which are now enshrouding the little man of this country. Sat. 7-5-47

Mr. Audrick declared that domestic fascism is the same as foreign countries and must be struck down wherever it raises its ugly head. It is true, he said, "that a rose by any other name smells just as sweet; and fascism in any other country stinks just as bad." Pointing out that Hitler rose to power by striking down the Jews, he contended that America would like to rise to power by striking down trade unions and Negroes.

HUMANITY FIGHT

Human progress is always lubricated with blood and any person who fights for it becomes a victim of name calling, continued the speaker. Regardless of name calling, he declared, "every lover of humanity is going to fight this thing until hell freezes over, and no son-of-a-fascist will be able to stop him until America had become a democracy of the people—black and white; for the people—Jew and Gentile; and by the people—Catholic and Protestant."

Mr. Thomas pointed out that the purpose of this meeting was not to incite riots but to protect the democratic rights of American citizens.

He blasted the federal government for sending men and arms to such reactionary countries as Greece and Turkey and failing to spend adequate money to build houses in America for its own veterans. He condemned the FBI for not demonstrating its efficiency in apprehending and punishing the southern lynchers. He also spoke out against police brutality and the lack of suffrage in the District of Columbia. Sat. 7-5-47

COOPERATION NEEDED

Speaking for the AYD, Mr. Rosen declared that young Negro and white citizens must stand shoulder to shoulder to stop the lynchings of the south and Jim Crow in the Nation's capital.

Being familiar with conditions now existing in the federal government, Mr. Schwartz told the audience that there is a movement on foot to break up labor unions in the government and push the Negro people back into slavery. The mass lay-off budget cut, he said, is a method used to wipe out wartime gains made by Negroes and push them back into charwomen. Another method of elimination, he said, is that of giving Negroes good or fair efficiency ratings in order to lower their retention points. In some instances, large numbers of Negroes are just laid off, and in other cases both Negro and whites are discharged and the whites are hired back. He urged that President Truman issue an executive order to establish a FEPC within the federal government. 30f(2)

William Johnson made another plea for the murderer of James Harris to be brought to justice. Mr. Harris, an outstanding labo leader, was mysteriously killed i last a few weeks ago and his slayer has never been found.

ABANDON INTIMIDATION

Clark Foreman, the last and perhaps most forceful speaker, urged all American citizens to fight for the right to live up to the Constitution of the United States and to not be intimidated by the Thomases and the Rankins and the Woods. Sat. 7-5-47

Resolutions in support of the federal anti-lynch bills and against discriminatory practices in the nation's capital were read by Mrs. Marie Harris and adopted by the body.

National GRAPEVINE

By CHARLEY CHEROKEE

30(2)

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

Congress and Such

THE ANTI-LYNCH BILL (H.R. 3488) just introduced by Rep. Case (R., N. J.), is the one agreed upon after much huddling by NAACP, National Lawyer's Guild and Washington Bar Asso. Added o usual teeth are stiff penalties for aiding or inciting lynchings, and or negligence in allowing prisoners to be snatched. And lynching is any violence, not just killing. Sat. 5-24-47

New Antilynch Bill Asks Congress to Indict Area

Afro-American, Sat. 11-29-47

Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Rep. Kenneth B. Keating (Rep., N.Y.), last Thursday introduced an anti-lynching bill in the House which differs from similar measures previously introduced. 30(2)

The new bill would make it a finding of Congress that, despite provisions of the 14th Amendment, persons have been denied the equal protection of the laws through mob violence because of inaction by State and local officials. Sat. 11-29-47

UN Charter Violated

It points out that mob violence and failure to abolish it is not only contrary to the 14th Amendment, but also to the United Nations Charter which pledges the United States to promote "universal respect for and observance of human and fundamental freedoms."

The right to be free from lynching and mob violence would be declared a right of citizens of the United States, in addition to any similar rights they may have as citizens of the several States or as persons within their jurisdiction.

Stiff Penalties Asked

The bill provides for a fine of $10,000, or imprisonment for not more than 20 years, or both, upon conviction of participation in a lynching.

It also provides for a fine of $5,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both, for any official found guilty of having willfully failed to protect a person in his custody from lynching or to apprehend or prosecute members of a mob.

Responsibility Defined

Other provisions include:

Compensation to the victim of mob violence.

Placing responsibility for lynchings within its jurisdiction on every governmental subdivision of a State to which police functions have been delegated.

Holding such areas also responsible for any lynching which follows the seizure and abduction of the victim within their limits, regardless of whether the lynching occurs within such limits or elsewhere.

Damages for Relatives

Holding such governmental sub divisions liable to each victim of mob violence, or, if death occurs, to his next of kin, in a sum of from $2,000 to $10,000 as monetary compensation for such injury or death. Sat. 11-29-47

Making this provision effective by paying the amount of any judgment obtained, after proper certification by the U.S. Attorney, out of unappropriated funds in the Federal Treasury, to be deducted from Federal grants-in-aid which may be payable to the State.

Authorize the judge of the U.S. District Court in which suit is instituted, to direct that it be tried in any place in his district which he may designate, excepting the limits of the defendant governmental subdivision.

Action Pledged

Rep. Keating said the 18th Congress would not adjourn without passage of both antilynching and anti-poll tax legisaltion. He declared:

"This nation has just fought the costliest war in history in order that the forces of right, justice and humanity might prevail over those of tyranny and oppression.

"It is time for us to destroy the vestiges of the concept of this defeated ideology as exemplified in the lynch mob in our own country. This is the purpose of my bill"

30f(2) 1947

Anti-lynch Bill

7581

LYNCHERS AND KIDNAPERS

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Influential daily newspapers like the Baltimore Sun and many another Southern daily are opposed to a federal anti-lynching bill. 30f(2) Sat. 6-28-47

But every last one of them urged the passage of the Lindbergh kidnaping bill which is now a federal law.

Under it last week, a U.S. judge sentenced three men to 41 years in prison. These three white fellows escaped from jail, kidnaped a taxi driver and used his cab to flee to Gettysburg, Pa.

So, these three men got an average of 13 years each simply for kidnaping a taxi driver and using his cab.

But, down in South Carolina, last month, 28 white men went free after taking a colored man from jail and lynching him.

There is not any comparison between the enormity of the crime involved in kidnaping one man, using his cab and killing another one.

But, the Sun and a good many other Southern white papers are willing to have the federal government punish kidnapers but not lynchers.

We are up against a kind of prejudice and selfishness that is common in many sections of the South. The Sun editors know that their women and children are likely to be kidnaped and they, therefore, want the protection of the federal government. Sat. 6-28-47

They do not believe that they, themselves, are likely to be lynched and, therefore, they want no interference from the federal government.

It is as simple as that.

How Long Will Washington Wait?

30f(2) The Worker N.Y., N.Y.

WASHINGTON must act at once to halt the wave of horrible murders being committed by lynch mobs and individuals against Negroes throughout the South.

The local and state authorities, even where they try to act, have shown their inability to stem this hideous flow of innocent blood at the hands of Nazi-like mobs.

Washington **MUST ACT** at once against lynchers. The FBI must seize and arrest these criminals. Wherever necessary, Federal martial law must be clamped down to give the millions of Negroes protection against wanton murder! Sun. 6-1-47

Urge that your Congressman act in support of the Case anti-lynch bill HR 3488. Let the conscience of America cry out—**death penalty for all lynchers and their accomplices!**

WE MUST STOP MOB VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

B'ham, Ala. 30f(2)

Weekly Review

BY LILLIAN SMITH

Author of STRANGE FRUIT

I am thinking today of the sad and tragic events that have piled up so tall a monument to racial hate this past year.

Most of them have occurred close to my home here in Georgia, Walton County with its four lynched— Greenville, S. C. where a jury set 26 men free who had confessed to a lynching— Now the attempted lynching in Jackson, North Carolina. Sat. 6-28-47

Three small events that cast a long shadow across the world.

They were sick men who lynched that Negro at Greenville. Sick men composed that jury who threw justice away like a cheap thing. Sick men lynched and sick men protected the lynchers in Walton County. Men made sick by hate and fear and ignorance, and by a culture that too often and too long has given the green light to mob violence, and mob hate. Every man on that jury, every lyncher, every potential lyncher, will tell you: "Keep the rest of the country out of this; this is our business."

Are we too, going to chalk a circle around each racial crime and tell the rest of the world to "Keep out"? Or are we ready now to take over this emergency and hande it in a mature and sane manner?

There comes a turning point in men's affairs when new decisions must be made to avoid profound disaster. What we do next about lynching and mob violence may well be the test case that will decide our capacity for cooperating with the wrold in this time of desperate need.

A state, a region, can no more handle racial emergencies alone than it can handle alone the results of a flood or tornado. Our people's prejudice has overflowed the bounds of reason. Increased by world tensions whipped on by a loose floating hate that's sweeping across the minds of men everywhere, it has reached proportions so destructive of law and order and justice and human values that only the fool, or the sick, can now say, "Leave us alone and we will handle it."

For 65 years we have been saying that. And during those 65 years we have had 4,982 lynchings. Only 1 percent of these lynchings has received a sentence, even of the mildest nature. And nearly every sentence has been suspended. Sat. 6-28-47

This is the picture of justice meted out to mob violence that America holds up for the rest of the world to look at.

And now? Four men and women lynched last summer in Georgia. NO ONE PUNISHED. A lynching in South Carolina by cab drivers who confessed their guilt. NO ONE PUNISHED. Despite the prosecuting attorney the jury refused to punish. Now a new lynching in North Carolina.

There is one right thing to do and we must do it. WE MUST STOP MOB VIOLENCE IN THIS COUNTRY. But we in the South are not strong enough to swing this job alone and we must face up to our weakness. We need the full cooperation of our entire nation.

We are asking our own people to help us now, Americans like ourselves, whose concern it is and who should share in this responsibility. Only by our securing a Federal bill against lynching can we draw fully upon the resources of our government and our Federal courts to help us meet this cultural disaster.

Together, We American citizens, north and south, can and must see to it that such a bill is passed. The Case bill against lynching is now before Congress. It is sane, moderate, not vindictive nor vengeful. This bill should be passed. We can write letters to our Congressmen, letters to our newspapers, we can talk to our neighbors, we can discuss this at our clubs and we can pass this bill if we want to. Sat. 6-28-47

Americans for Democratic Action is a group of citizens who, in democratic ways, are trying to make democracy work in this country and throughout the world. Give them your money and your support; do it now, while we have the chance to stop this infamy. Send $1,000 if you can or $1. But do not permit this day to pass without registering your protest against these crimes which unchecked will drag America down.

As a southerner and a human being, I believe this is the urgent task before us today, the most immediately pressing. Each racial crime in America now is like a bell tolling across the earth, telling the people everywhere that democracy is dead: We must stop that sound:

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

ACCORDING to Tuskegee stati ticians authenticated lynching rose to six in 1946, in contrast t only one in 1945. Better news that lynchings were prevented i seventeen cases, fourteen of the by police action. Nevertheless the ought to be an anti-lynching la but quick.

Sat. 1-11-47 30f(2)

Evidence of the need fo such a law is the failure o either Georgia or Federal o ficials to get any line on th Monroe lynchers. If we ha an anti-lynching law on th books, we could heavily fine this county for permitting a lynching to occur. Since the non-lynchers choose to cover up the lynchers, they should be made to pay for this dubious privilege. Sat. 1-11-47

ANTI-LYNCH LOBBY GETS THE RUN-AROUND

By Fred Vast 30f(2)

WASHINGTON, July 18.—Delegates who came here from six states to press for anti-lynching legislation were given the runaround today by Republican leaders.

House Speaker Joseph Martin (R-Mass) and Representative Sam Rayburn (D-Tex), Minority Leader, were "too busy" to see the white and Negro citizens, whose lobby was sponsored by the Civil Rights Congress. Daily Worker

Aid of Southern Democrats in passing the Taft-Hartley law was traded off for GOP burial of anti-lynching legislation, it was recently revealed by Rep. Gerald Landis (R-Ind). N.Y., N.Y.

Landis also disclosed the GOP was only using the anti-polltax bill in retaliation for failure to beat the tax veto. The anti-poll tax measure, HR 29, cleared the House Committee earlier this week, but there is no guarantee the legislation will reach the floor before Congress adjourns July 26. Speaker Martin can push it through any time he wishes. Sat. 7-19-47

The Senate anti-discrimination bill is bottled up in a subcommittee.

The anti-lynching lobbyists, voted to conduct a telegraphic campaign next week to line up signatures on discharge petition No. 9.

Delegates also resolved to organize home visits to lawmakers.

Bender conceded "no diligent effort has been made in the House to get the anti-lynching bill out of committee."

Chairman Earl Michener (R-Mich) of the House Judiciary Committee admitted he is opposed to any action."

Lobbyists came from AFL and CIO unions, the American Veterans Committee, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Civil Rights Congress in Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York.

Theron Caudle, Assistant Attorney General, told them the Justice Department favors legislation but had not endorsed any specific bill, on the ground it was awaiting action of the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

A number of New York Congressmen claimed they favored Federal legislation to punish lynchers but refused to sign the discharge because they did not want to oppose the GOP leaders. They included Representatives Leonard Hall, Ellsworth Buck and Kennenth Keating.

"Discourteous and rude" treatment of a Negro-White delegation by William Groth, Administrative Assistant of Senator Irving Ives (R-NY) drew condemnation from the delegation. Sat. 7-19-47

Senator Alben Barkley (D-Ky), Senate Minority Leader, also was "too busy" to see the anti-lynch delegation, and Senator Wallace White (R-Me), Majority Leader, could not be found.

Anti-Lynching Bill Introduced in Senate

Daily Worker

301 (2)

New York, N.Y. Mon. 6-2-47

WASHINGTON, June 1.—Robert F. Wagner and Wayne Morse this week jointly introduced in the Senate a strong anti-lynching bill. The Wagner-Morse bill, S-1352, is practically identical with the other bills introduced in the House by Congressman Clifford P. Case (R-NJ) and Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas (D-Calif).

The Wagner-Morse-Case Bill, declares the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People:

"Defines lynching as any violence to person or property by a mob (an assemblage of two or more persons) because of the race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry or language of the victim, or because the victim was suspected, accused, or convicted of a criminal offense.

"The victim does not have to die in order to be 'lynched' within the meaning of the bill. Any injury is sufficient.

"Members of the lynch mob, or any person who aids or incites the mob, are made punishable by a maximum imprisonment of 20 years or a maximum fine of $10,000 or both.

Mon. 6-2-47

"Dereliction on the the part of state officers charged with responsibility of protecting the victim or apprehending the lynchers is made punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years or a maximum fine of $5,000, or both.

"Every governmental subdivision of the state which wilfully or negligently permits an individual to be seized, abducted and lynched is made liable to the lynched, if he lives, for monetary compensation for injury of $2,000 to $10,000 or, if he dies, to his next of kin. These suits would be brought in a Federal district court and prosecuted by the Attorney General of the United States in behalf of the victim or the victim's next of kin.

"All criminal prosecutions under the Act would be brought in a Federal district court."

All organizations and persons are urged to write to Honorable Joseph W. Martin, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Congressman Earl C. Michener (R-Mich), Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and Congressman Clifford P. Case, urging full but speedy hearings on HR13488.

For Senate action the NAACP asks that wires and telegrams be sent to Senator Wallace White, Republican Majority Leader, Senator Alben Barkley.

FBI Head Asks 10-Year Term For Lynchers

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 6-14-47

Offers Proposals To Truman's Civil Rights Commission

301 (2)

WASHINGTON — (Exclusive) — The lack of a militant attitude against lynching in some communities, and the lack of a courageous attitude in courts and juries to perform their functions free from prejudice on the other, were cited by FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover, as the two greatest problems facing the federal government in combating mob violence in the South.

While the Federal Bureau of Investigation has a record of 97 per cent convictions in all cases which go to trial, in 20 years there have been only 27 convictions in cases involving the violation of civil rights. The sum total of the penalties is 30 years and two months confinement. Sat-6-14-47

Hoover aired his views on civil rights before the President's Civil Rights Commission two months ago in a closed session. Some of his recommendations which have come to light in the wake of the recurring mob atrocities include—a proposal for passage of a strong anti-lynching law providing stiff criminal penalties; strengthening of existing civil rights statutes, defining the jurisdiction of the government and that of the states, and the proper selection and training of law enforcement officers, including expanded use of Negro G-men.

Similar To Wagner Bill

Hoover's proposal for an anti-lynch bill approximates provisions of the Wagner-Morse bill introduced in the Senate, and the Case-Douglas bill pending in the House-

He would define a "mob" as three or more persons, and the "victim" as one formally charged with a crime either in custody or on bond, who, under the Constitution, is entitled to a fair trial. Under terms of the proposed bill, anyone who takes action to prevent the victim a fair trial should be investigated and prosecuted. Sat-6-14-47

The G-Man Chief would define "lynching" as any action taken by a mob which might result in death or in the maiming or disfigurement, and which action is taken as punishment to the victim for the commission of a crime. Further, Mr. Hoover would blanket in the violation of the law all persons participating in a lynching, whether

Sat. 6-14-47

at not less than 1[illegible] years imprisonment and a fine of $5,000.

Clarifying the authority and jurisdiction of the FBI, often criticized for their slowness to act in the South, Hoover is said to have revealed that his men cannot go into any community on a civil rights, labor, or anti-trust case until they receive the go-ahead signal from the Department of Justice.

Study Case First

301 (2)

Where civil rights appear to have been violated, the Department makes a preliminary investigation through its Civil Rights Section in the Criminal Division. If they determine there should be an investigation, the FBI is directed to proceed.

Anti-Lynch

This long-drawn-out procedure, which is not required by law, is followed in civil rights, labor and anti-trust cases. It is not followed in kidnapings, bank robbery, and other violations of federal statutes.

While Hoover described the thorough training offered for law enforcement officers in the National Academy, operated by the FBI here, he disclosed that there had never been a Negro officer enrolled.

He stated that as far as the Federal Bureau of Investigation is concerned, there are no restrictions on race, or creed in the officer training program. He said the FBI set up certain entrance qualifications, but the selection of the officers is done by local police.

A BILL WITH TEETH

301 (2)

Senators Wagner, Morse Move To Ban Lynchings

Chicago Defender, Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 6-7-47

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Shocked by the gross miscarriage of justice in the recent South Carolina mass lynch trials, Senators Robert F. Wagner, Democrat of New York, and Wayne Morse, Republican of Oregon, moved to broaden the powers of the Federal government in combatting lynch-rule through provisions of an anti-lynching bill which they introduced jointly in the Senate.

The bill, which is practically identical to the strong-toothed House measure introduced by Representatives Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, and Helen Gahagan Douglas, Democrat of California, would bring all criminal prosecutions under the Act in Federal District courts.

In the Federal courts, judges and prosecutors could be brought from other states or sections of the country. Moreover, the jury could be impanelled from a larger geographic area in the state than the immediate section in which the crime is committed, thereby increasing the chances of Negroes being on the jury panel.

26-Year Fight Sat-6-7-47

In the 26-year-old fight, three anti-lynching bills have passed in the House only to be filibustered to death in the Senate. In January. 1922, the Dyer Bill passed the House by a vote of 320-119. On April 15, 1937, the House passed a bill sired by Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan (D., N. Y.) by a vote of 277-119. The Senate version of the Gavagan Bill was killed by the filibuster of Southernerr and Republican Sen. William E. Borah of Idaho. The talkfest consumed seven weeks.

The last House action on anti-lynching legislation was recorded Jan. 10, 1940, when the lower chamber passed the Gayagan-Fish Anti-Lynching Bill by a vote of 252-131. The measure went to the Senate where Sen. Alben Barkley, Democrat of Kentucky, who was then Majority Leader, refused to push for its consideration on grounds that it was "impractical" to consider such legislation in the face of the acute international situation.

Define Lynching

The Wagner - Morse - Douglas-Case Bill defines lynching as "any violence" to person or property by a mob because of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry or language of the victim, or because the victim was suspected, accused, or convicted of a criminal offense.

The victim does not have to die in order to be "lynched" within the meaning of the bill. Any injury is sufficient.

Members of the lynch mob, or any person who aids or incites the mob, are made punishable by a maximum imprisonment of 20 years or a maximum fine of $10,000, or both.

Would Punish Officers

Dereliction on the part of state officers charged with responsibility of protecting the victim or apprehending the lynchers is made punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years or a maximum of $5,000, or both.

Every governmental subdivision of the state which wilfully or negligently permits an individual to be seized, abducted and lynched is required to pay to the lynched, if he lives, compensation of $2,000 to $10,000. If the lynch victim dies, these amounts go to his next of kin. Suits for compensation would be brought in a Federal District Court and prosecuted by the Attorney General of the United States.

He Wanted Afternoon Off, Planter Tried to Lynch Him

30g The Worker N.Y., N.Y. Sun. 8/10/47

By Abner W. Berry

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A desire for a Saturday afternoon off almost cost a Sumter County Negro sharecropper his life three weeks ago. He managed to escape a planter's mob, led by his landlord, and reached St. Louis, but it took more than three weeks before friends could aid his family to get away. Now that the family is in safe territory his story can be told.

On Saturday morning, July 5, last, Arthur B. Smith, 29, was plowing his team of mules on the 38-acre patch of corn and cotton he was sharecropping for "Buck" Boyd, a white landholder. Boyd rode by on horseback as Smith plowed and ordered him to use another team for the afternoon plowing.

"I ain't working this evening," Smith told the planter.

"I'll tell you when to work and when not to," Boyd shot back threateningly. Whereupon Boyd dismounted and advanced toward the cropper.

"Don't hit me!" Smith warned. With that Boyd turned, remounted his horse and called back to Smith as he rode away: "You are going to plow this evening—just wait 'till I get back."

Sun 8-10-47

LATER THAT DAY, after Smith had unhitched his mules and gone to hide in the brush behind the house, he saw Buck Boyd and two other armed white men talking to his wife. Convinced that his life was in danger he kept to the brush that night and the next day. On that Monday he escaped and arrived in St. Louis, Missouri, on Tuesday, July 8.

Contacting the Civil Rights Congress on the advice of friends he expressed fear for the safety of his wife, Inelle, and their two children. A wire was sent by the CRC to Alabama authorities and state troopers were sent to the plantation. However, the troopers, instead of seeking out the planter who had threatened violence against the Negro cropper and his family, admonished Smith's wife and family to "be good n—rs."

The Southern Negro Youth Congress, at the request of CRC, sent an investigator to the Boyd plantation which is located just six

ageous Jews with Molotov

and arranged the escape trip for the family.

Sun. 8-10-47

THE BOYD FAMILY have a record of anti-Negro violence throughout the county. Their father was killed some years ago in a race riot provoked by the sons. They are disliked by both whites and Negroes in the community, and local Negroes refuse to work for them.

Boyd had gone to Uniontown, in a neighboring county, to get the Smith family for his farm. His practice of terror against his tenants is said to be due to the shortage of labor made even more acute for him because of his record.

An answer to the question why don't negroes leave the South, is given by the circumstances in which Alice Smith, the sister of Arthur, finds herself. She had a "joint" contract along with her brother for the crop. She owed the landlord and other business men about $300. She was afraid, although the visit from the state troopers and community pressure had put some fear into the Boyds. But she could not leave.

Sun. 8-10-47

SHE HAD a mule, some hogs, three-fourths of a crop and a sewing machine, the latter being a source of extra income. She would rather brave possible terror than give up valuables representing the savings of a lifetime. Her immediate family, for whom she is the sole support are six children, ranging in age from 16 months to 15 years of age.

The Smiths left behind their mule and a number of other belongings as the price of life and a larger measure of liberty and security.

But the local citizens are wondering about the Boyd brothers.

They have caused the death of their father, they have the reputation of having killed one Negro and harmed many others, they still have land and power in their neck of the woods. How long are they to remain free possibly to kill again?

PM. New York, N.Y. Wed. 6-11-47

'They Had a Rope Around His Neck .. I Started Talking and Kept on . . .

The South can take pride in Hugh Vann, a native son and Mayor of Hurtsboro, Ala., who saved a Negro from the lawless rage of a lynch mob yesterday. Here is Mayor Vann's own story of the lynching-that-didn't happen, as told to PM: 30g

By Hugh Vann

As Told to James T. Howard of PM by Long Distance Telephone.

This colored boy, Jimmy Harris, 23, attacked a white lady, Mrs. G. H. Baker, wife of an insurance man, who lives a half block from our main street. The washing machine was going and she didn't hear his slip into the kitchen. When he grabbed her, she screamed and her colored maid helped fight him off.

Mr. Reuben Streedman, her next door neighbor, heard her scream and he ran in and knocked the Negro away and then knocked him out doors. By that time, several more men and boys went running over and in a few minutes there were 15 or 20 of them.

There was a cattle truck parked right outside the house with a length of cattle rope hanging out the rear end. Somebody got the rope and the mob started talking about stringing him up. They got a noose around his neck and they were roughing him up, beating him with the rope end. They were going to hang him right there on a tree in front of the house. Wed. 6-11-47

My office is on Main St., two and a half blocks away from Mrs. Parker's. I'm in the automobile business, William Motor Co., Ford agency. I was at my desk when the phone rang and it was Mr. I. J. Coleman who runs a cafe across from the Parker place.

"Come down here as quick as you can or there'll be a lynching," he said, but he was so excited I couldn't hear what else. about a lynching or lynch talk around here.

I have two men on my police force—a night man and a day man. The day man also takes care of the streets and he was working somewhere else when this happened. We dont need any more help. As Mayor I have police power. I have a gun but I never carry it because I don't need it. Wed. 6-11-47

They took Harris to Kilby Prison at Montgomery for safekeeping. Somebody said it was because there was a phone call from Hurtsboro saying a lynch mob was coming over to get him.

I don't believe that. Our people don't do things that way. I bet every one of those men and boys that were in that mob are ashamed of themselves right now. They're like me. We all want to protect the fair name of our city. And we'll see to it that Jimmy Harris gets a fair trial.

Memphis
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
Birmingham
Phenix City
SCENE OF LYNCHING ATTEMPT
Montgomery
Hurtsboro
MISSISSIPPI
ALABAMA
FLORIDA
Baton Rouge
New Orleans

I jumped into my pickup car and went right down. They had Harris tied hand and foot with rope and some of the mene were pulling and tugging at the loose end of the rope around his neck. Harris was crawling on his hands and knees. I guess he was too scared to say anything or cry out from the pain.

"If I do say so myself I was cool through the whole thing. I know everybody in town and knew these men and boys would not do anything to me. They are good people from good families and they were just excited and angry, sort of out of their heads.

"I started talking and kept on talking, asking them not to hurt the Negro but to let the law take its course. Wed. 6-11-47

"They were stubborn and argued that they wanted to go through with it. Some of them were just a little unruly but right away I had help from three business men—Mr. Herman Ellison, Mr. Homer Rutherford—he's a former Mayor—and his son, Philip Rutherford. They're all in the cotton business. They started talking, too, telling these people that our town stood for law and order and things like this didn't happen here. I told them they'd all feel better if the Negro was tried in court by a jury and asked them to let me take him to jail where he belonged.

"While we were talking I got the noose off Harris's neck and pushed him right over to the pickup. Nobody raised a finger to stop us and I guess they thought we were going to the jail. But I kept right on going until we were 18 miles out of town where we met the Sheriff and he took over. He took Harris to the jail at Phenix City. That's the county seat. Wed. 6-11-47

On the ride, I talked to Jimmy Harris. He is a local boy, born and raised on a cattle farm six miles from here. Worked on the farm and never got into any trouble. About six months ago he packed up and went North, the first time he was away from home. He told me he raped a woman in Buffalo, N. Y., about two months ago, and wasn't caught. He was broke and he came home again. Then he got a sudden notion he could get away with it again. He had several bumps on his head but he wasn't seriously hurt.

Our town has a population of 894, 65 per cent colored. We don't ever have any trouble between the white folks and the Negroes. I was born and raised 10 miles from here and I've been Mayor seven years. I'm 47 and I don't remember ever hearing

30g 1947

Alabama

7583

ESCAPE FROM ALA. LYNCHERS

30g

St. Louis, Mo.

The St. Louis Argus

On Saturday, July 5, Arthur B. Smith, a sharecropper on the plantation of "Buck" Boyd near Livingston, Alabama was working in the field when his landlord rode up on horseback. The landlord demanded to know why he was plowing with only one team. Fri. 7-25-47

Smith, who had been working every Saturday evening, explained that he didn't feel well and was planning not to work that Saturday evening.

Replying that HE would tell Smith what to do, Boyd got down from his horse and advanced threateningly toward him. When Smith said "Don't hit me," Boyd halted, turned and got on his horse, shouted "YOU ARE GOING TO PLOW THIS EVENING. WAIT UNTIL I GET BACK," and rode away.

Smith, fearing what would happen next, took his team back to the house and went out into the brush. A while later he saw Boyd, accompanied by his brother and stepfather go to the house, guns in hand and talk to his wife and family. He knew they were looking for him, so he hid out in the brush Saturday night and all day Sunday. On Monday he managed to find a way to escape and came to St. Louis where his brother lives.

Fearing for the safety of his family of eleven remaining on the plantation, the Smiths appealed to friends here for help.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress in Birmingham was contacted and sent someone to look into the situation. They have reported that it is unsafe for Smith to come back. The situation locally is tense, altho he is is not accused of any violence. A mad lynch posse had been roving up and down the roads for a radius of 12 miles searching for the missing youth.

The Civil Rights Congress sent telegrams to Alabama Governor Folsom and to Sumpter County Probate Judge requesting their attention in the matter and asking that they provide protection for the Smith family from the customary rule of landlords to terrorize the families of "get-away" croppers.

The following reply came from Judge McConnell: "Smith's accusation against Boyd absolutely without foundation. No member of Smith's family is in danger. They will have full protection of the law without your interference." This indicates all too clearly the attitude of the authorities.

Plans are being made to remove the family from the plantation to a place of safety.

Sixteen years ago the Boyd family led a lynching party which resulted in a riot in which the father was killed .... today they and others still foment terror throughout the South — the danger grows instead of diminishing. Fri 7-25-47

This terror must be fought and we in St. Louis who are free of this terror must help in every way we can.

Arthur Smith has asked the Civil Rights Congress and all other progressive organizations and individuals to aid him in this situation to remove his family and make it possible for them to reunite. Funds are urgently needed.

Additional information may be obtained from the Civil Rights Congress, Rm. 317 Peoples Bldg., 11 N. Jefferson, St. Louis, FR. 4654.

Negro Saved From Mob At Hurtsboro Is Sent To Mt. Vernon Asylum

Montgomery, Ala.

Sat. 8-2-47

30g

A 19-year-old Russell County Negro who had a rope around his neck when he was rescued from a mob at Hurtsboro two months ago was committed to the Negro insane hospital at Mt. Vernon, Ala.

Gov. James E. Folsom's office today announced the transfer of the Negro, Jimmy Harris, from Kilby Prison to the hosptial. The action came after Harris was declared insane by a prison sanity board, the announcement said:

Harris was taken from a mob of about 25 men after an alleged attempt to rape a white woman in her home near Phenix City. Mayor Hurt Vann, of Hurtsboro, took him from the group and he was rushed to Kilby Prison.

A Russell circuit court later convicted Harris of assault with intent to rape and sentenced him to 20 years in prison. Sat. 8-2-47

Members of the sanity board which found Harris insane were Kilby Warden Tennyson Dennis, Dr. S. W. Shelton and J. B Airey, classification officer.

Armed Farmers' Mob Breaks Up As Sheriff, Men Hunt Negro, 15

30g

Birmingham News

Birmingham, Ala.

GADSDEN, Ala., Sept. 2—A shotgun-carrying mob of about 75 farmers had been dispersed at Ball Play community 12 miles Northeast of here today as sheriff's men sloshed through the dense swamps in search of a 15-year-old Negro.

The Negro is accused of raping the 45-year-old wife of a white farmer. The Negro is a son of a farmer in the mainly Negro community of Ball Play.

Sheriff Ira C. Ballard said the mob formed in Ball Play late Sunday afternoon shortly after the alleged rape was supposed to have occurred. Tues. 9-2-47

Farmers with shotguns and rifles crooked in their arms were standing silent but angry when he arrived at Ball Play late Sunday, the Etowah County sheriff said.

"They were getting ready to go into the woods after the boy."

* * *

BUT, ADDED BALLARD, "There wasn't anything to it. They were just all hot and wild. After I talked to the leaders, they agreed to break it up and go home."

The sheriff said he and his deputies then took up the search in the neighboring swamps. Use of bloodhounds were abandoned when the dogs lost the scent "from so many tracks in the woods."

Lynchers Try It Again!

30g

Courier

Make Third Lynch Try In 81 Days in Alabama

Pittsburgh, Pa.

GADSDEN, Ala.—When Art Hendricks, 15, of the Ball Play Community was arrested Sept. 5, by Sheriff Ira C. Ballard in Carroll County, Ga., near the State line, charged with a criminal attack of a 41-year-old white woman, he became the third victim of a lynch attempt within eighty-one days.

A mob estimated at seventy-five persons made an unsuccessful search for the suspected youth on the night of Aug. 30. The would-be lynchers were described as armed with guns and rifles. The Ball Play community is located twelve miles northeast of Gadsden.

On June 11 a mob put at fifteen to twenty-nine persons attempted to lynch Jimmy Harris, 21, in Huntsboro, Ala. An appeal by Mayor Hugh Vann saved the youth. He was charged with a criminal attack. Sat. 10-11-47

On May 1 a mob placed at 300 stormed the St. Clair County jail in Pell City trying to lynch Robert E. Hunley, 28, charged with criminal attack of a woman.

The Case Of Jimmy Harris Of Hurtsboro

30g

~~Journal & Guide~~

Norfolk Va.

SEVEN days after having been accused of attempted rape upon a white woman, 23-year-old JIMMY HARRIS of Hurtsboro, Ala., winds up in the state penitentiary under a 20-year sentence. Sat. 7-15-47

The offense for which HARRIS was tried and convicted was alleged to have been committed on June 10. On June 18 he was indicted, reportedly entered a plea of guilty, and sentence was immediately imposed.

In his case the law moved with remarkable speed, but not so swiftly nor so frightfully as had been decreed by the law of the mob from which he had been so dramatically rescued by the mayor of the town and three volunteer assistants.

What is most amazing about HARRIS' case is not the speed with which it was disposed, but the more fortunate manner in which it came to an end.

News reports state that a mob had already fastened a noose about the neck of the accused man and was preparing to swing him up in a lynching debauch, when his rescue was effected.

Only the courageous intervention of the trio of white men made it possible for HARRIS to live to face a court, and to obtain a term in a mundane jail, regardless of the question of his actual guilt, or innocence, or the validity of his guilty plea. Sat. 7-15-47

The climax in this episode came when a lynching was sensationally averted as the would-be victim stood within the shadow of his gallows. What has since happened to him is merely anti-climax.

But the climax is one which demonstrates that in countless instances mob passion and action can be dissipated by cool, courageous and determined effort on the part of law enforcement officers.

However, in spite of the admirable action of the Hurtsboro mayor, the case is marred by an unfortunate aspect. It is the decision of the jury summoned to investigate the action of the mob. The jury concluded that "conceivably one or two persons might have been guilty of conduct that would subject them to indictment for a misdemeanor but our considered judgment is that such action is not necessary for the public good."

Sat. 7-15-47

Just what these jurors had in mind when they determined that to return indictments against known attempted lynchers "is not necessary for the public good" is left to conjecture. It is, to say the least, a foreboding decision. What is indicated here is that only the miraculous on-the-scene intervention by some "good white people" of Hurtsboro can prevent a lynching in that town, since courts and grand juries offer no deterrents. Sat. 7-15-47

Moreover, when Judge J. S. WILLIAMS, who sentenced HARRIS, went out of his way to say, as he is quoted as having said that "there has been to much interest in the prosecution of the mob and not enough in the culprit's victim," he made an open suggestion to the investigating jury to forget the whole matter.

Three Negroes Held Here For Safekeeping In Tuscaloosa Killing

Birmingham News 1-17-47

Birmingham Ala.

Trio Jailed By Officers Investigating Death Of Soda Fountain Girl

30g Ala.

Three Negroes, held as suspects in connection with the brutal slaying of Miss Martha Mosley, 27-year-old Holt girl, near her home late Tuesday night, were brought to Jefferson County Jail last night for safekeeping. 1-17-47

The Tuscaloosa County sheriff's office stated this morning investigating officers had evidence indicating at least two of the Negroes "had to do with the death" of Miss Mosley, whose battered, partly-clothed body was found near her home about 8 p.m. Wednesday.

According to the Tuscaloosa sheriff's office, the Negroes were brought here "to keep down violence" in Tuscaloosa County. They were committed to the Jefferson County Jail on order of Circuit Judge W. C. Warren, of Tuscaloosa County. 1-17-47

THE ARRESTS WERE MADE by Tuscaloosa police, the Tuscaloosa sheriff's office and highway patrolmen who have been working together on the case. The Negroes were brought to Birmingham by Highway Patrol Division Chief C. M. Thorsen and Investigator Oliver McDuff. Tuscaloosa officers were expected here today to continue questioning of the Negroes.

Birmingham News Fri 1-17-47 Birmingham Ala.

The body of Miss Mosley, a soda fountain employe in Tuscaloosa, was found in a wooded area near Holt High School by a searching party organized after she disappeared Tuesday night. County Coroner S. T. Hardin said the young woman had been beaten on the face, criminally attacked and choked to death by a handkerchief which was found tightly knotted about her throat. 30g Ala.

THE GIRL HAD been seen last as she left a bus about 10 p.m. Tuesday. Coroner Hardin said she evidently was killed immediately after getting off the bus, as her body had been drenched by rain when it was found about 20 hours later. Her coat and purse were found near the scene of the slaying several hours before the body was discovered.

Authorities investigating the case include Tuscaloosa Sheriff R. G. Parker and Deputies W. F. Wright, Charlie Saunders and Elmer Brewer; State Officers Thorsen and McDuff; Highway Patrol Officers W. F. Dyar, Edgar Skinner and J. A. Daugherty and State Toxicologist C. D. Brooks.

Funeral services for Miss Mosley will be announced by Jones & Speigner Funeral Home, Tuscaloosa. 30g Ala. 1-17-47

Miss Mosley is survived by her mother, an invalid, and a sister, Miss Janie Mosley, who is also employed at a Tuscaloosa drug store.

Lynch Mob Shoots Up Jail

Daily Worker 5-2-47

30g

PELL CITY, Ala., May 1 (UP).—Some 400 men stormed the St. Clair county jail today and fired shots through the windows at Robert E. Hunt, Negro held on a charge of raping a white woman.

State highway patrolmen finally dispersed the mob and two carloads of policemen took Hunt to Birmingham for safe-keeping. New York, N.Y.

Hunt was nicked on the arm and leg by flying glass when one bullet smashed a window. Fri. 5-2-47

Lynch Mob Foiled At Pell City Jail

Constitution

Fri 5-2-47

PELL CITY, Ala., May 1—(UP) A lynch-minded mob of about 400 men stormed the St. Clair County jail Thursday and fired shots through the windows at Robert E. Hunt, Negro, held on charges of assaulting a white woman. 30g

State highway patrolmen finally broke up the mob and two carloads of officers hauled Hunt away to Birmingham where he was placed in the skyscraper Jefferson County jail for safekeeping. Atlanta, Ga.

Chief Deputy Bob Alverson said that Hunt had confessed entering a home in near-by Easonville disguised as a woman in clothing belonging to his intended victim. He had taken one of her dresses off a clothesline outside.

After he had gained entrance, the Negro confessed, he made the woman submit to him by holding a knife at her throat.

No Arrests Made In Near-Lynching

30g Ala.

Thur 6-12-47

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Constitution State News Service.

COLUMBUS, June 11—Russell County (Ala.) Circuit Solicitor A. S. Borders declined late Wednesday to say whether prosecution of any participants in the near-lynching of Negro Jimmie Harris at Hurtsboro Tuesday will be undertaken. Thur 6-12-47

"No arrests have been made, and no warrants have been asked by me," he said, adding that he "understood all parties quoted in the press had denied participation in the lynch-attempt."

He said he did not know whether any of the party had been identified, but he had talked with several persons at Hurtsboro and the investigation was being continued.

Mayor, Sheriff Rescue Negro In Lynch Try

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

Wed. 6-11-47

Hurtsboro Authorities Ask Mob For Release; Is Brought To Kilby

30g

HURTSBORO, ALA., June 10.—(AP)—The town mayor and three other white men today rescued a 19-year-old Negro from a mob which was threatening to lynch him. The youth was hogtied and a rope was all ready looped around his neck.

The mayor, 48-year-old Hurt Vann, said he persuaded the crowd, growing "larger and rougher" by the minute, to release the Negro, Jimmy Harris, because "that is the best way—we ought to let the law take its course."

Vann said the Negro had been seized by the mob after a white woman reported he broke into her home and attempted to assault her. Mayor Vann said the woman's scream brought a neighbor who "threw the Negro into the street."

Immediately, he said, a mob gathered, seized the Negro and lashed him with a rope obtained from a nearby truck.

Mayor Vann, former Mayor H. M. Rutherford and his son, Phil, and City Councilman H. T. Ellison, arrived as "about 25" white men were beating the Negro with the rope end and their fists. The Negro was prostrate, the mayor said. Wed. 6-11-47

Brought to Montgomery

The crowd, said the mayor, was preparing to lynch the Negro on a tree near the center of this southeast Alabama town of about one thousand population.

Mayor Vann said he rushed Harris to a pickup truck and raced out of town. "I knew we wouldn't have a chance if he stayed there," he said.

Outside town, he switched to a private car and sped towards the Russell County seat, Phenix City. Eighteen miles from Hurtsboro, he met County Sheriff Ralph Matthews and State Highway Patrolmen, and placed the Negro in their custody. 30g Ala.

Harris was rushed to Phenix City jail and then to the State prison in Montgomery "for his protection." Wed. 1-11-47

Mayor Vann said he recognized members of the crowd but he did not think charges would be placed against them.

The mayor said Harris was not seriously injured by the beating, "but had several bumps on his head."

He said the Negro was tight-lipped during the dramatic affair, neither crying in pain nor fear.

"In a few minutes he would have been a goner—and he knew it," Vann added.

He said Hurtsboro was "getting quiet now" and he felt there was little danger of further mob action. 30g Ala.

Vann related that the white woman was doing her laundry, washing, when Harris broke into her house. He said the two struggled while a Negro servant tried to help throw Harris out.

The screams brought Reuben Streetman, a neighbor, who attacked the Negro and carried him outside. Other neighbors gathered quickly and someone produced a rope from a nearby truck. Wed. 1-11-47

The Negro was bound tightly and then a noose was placed around his neck. Mayor Vann said when he arrived, several white men were pulling and tugging on the loose end of the rope. Some were beating the Negro, who was groveling in the dirt, the mayor said.

Vann said Harris was a native of Russell County.

Incident in the South

Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch

A STRIKING incident is described in the Chicago *Christian Advocate*. A young Methodist minister in Alabama named McDavid stood off a lynching mob for 45 minutes, with the aid of a few others, after a Negro suspected of murdering a white member of his church had been captured. 30g Thur. 1-9-47

It is disgraceful that a mob was bent on lynching the man, and it is doubly disgraceful that the South permits any lynchings at all to occur, while usually failing to catch and punish the culprits. But here is an example of heroism on the part of Southern white man on behalf of a Southern black man which ought to be better known. Thurs. 1-9-47

A MAYOR AND A LYNCHING BEE

Bham, Ala. News

One may take hope from the story of the Alabama small-town mayor who, along with three neighbors, stopped a lynching by moral suasion. Here is proof that calmness, wisdom and obligation to a sense of order are what it takes to keep people acting like civilized beings. When these things come together in the right place, they prevail over passion and force. 30g Ala. Tues. 6-17-47

The most hopeful detail comes in Mayor Hurt Vann's explanation of why he and his three companions moved in on the mob. A Negro boy was trussed up, the rope was around his neck, and his captors had picked out the gallows tree when the mayor arrived. "We didn't want to give the town a black eye," says Mr. Vann.

This dread of a "black eye" speaks volumes. Here is the consciousness that nobody can get away with contempt of law and decency. The punishment is certain, in a brand that will never be removed. Hurtsboro, Ala., would be remembered, as the mayor knew, as a community of violence. But its men made the decision that it is not that kind of community. Tues. 6-17-47

The story gets the headlines because of the association with other recent and less fortunate events. It is not, however, a new story to the South. Responsible officials have stood for the law more often than not, but little is heard of them. The need is to arouse generally and to spread the consciousness and fear of the inevitable "black eye." The need is to build a wider understanding that condemnation of mob action is valid and natural and American, no matter where it comes from. It is the mob that gives a community or a region a "black eye," not the critics of the mob.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

HURTSBORO SETS AN EXAMPLE

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

All of Alabama and the nation are indebted to Mayor Hugh Vann, of Hurtsboro, and to the three citizens who assisted him in avoiding a lynching in that Russell County town last week. 30g Ala.

How much better that Hurtsboro should make the headlines over America as a place where men believe stoutly in the orderly processes of law, rather than as a place where men spurn the law and kill as they please. If the Negro, Jimmie Harris, is guilty of the attempted assault with which he is charged, then let him be punished with the full majesty and power of our Alabama law. By such a course, respect for law is increased; but by lynch justice we spit at the law, and ourselves become parties to crime. Sun. 6-15-47

It required the finest quality of citizen courage for Mayor Vann, former Mayor Homer Rutherford, his son Phil Rutherford, and H. T. Ellison to win over the mob that had placed a rope around the Negro's neck. Their action is an example that should be studied and followed all over the South. And in handing out appreciation, let us not overlook the fact that members of the mob were reasonable enough to respond. Mobs are made up of good men and bad men, all caught up together in a swirl of hysterical violence. There must have been more basically good men than bad men in that mob.

or four men could never have stopped them with words or anything else.

Having spent 10 wonderful years of boy-

[illegible] in Hurtsboro, this editor felt a warm thrill of pride in the splendid way that town came through its ordeal. Mayor Vann is a newcomer since we left there in 1923, but the others are old friends. Homer Rutherford, big, jovial, a good farmer and business man, was about the best fisherman in town. His son, Phil, threw a fast ball that slipped by us many a time, and if we must get right down to facts—he licked the fire out of us more than once! Herman Ellison was a little younger, but we've heard that he's developed into a mighty good citizen. Sun. 6-15-47

In thinking about the qualities of Americanism that enabled those Hurtsboro men to avoid dishonor for their town and nation, we like to think that our father, who preached the doctrine of Christian brotherhood from the Baptist pulpit there 30 years ago, may have had some little part in building characters that, in time of test, stood up under fire.

Courageous Southerners

Richmond Times-Dispatch

[St. Louis Post-Dispatch]

Mon. 6-23-47

ALL honor to Mayor Hurt Vann and the three other Southern white men who saved a 19-year old Negro from being lynched at Hurtsboro, Ala. They did their duty in the face of one of the most emotionally powerful prejudices which craze men into mob action. The Negro youth was accused of criminal assault on white women. Southern white women but there is still no charge so have repeatedly repudiated lynching as a means of their protection, likely to explode into mob murder.

It took high courage to do what was done by Mayor Vann, former Mayor H. M. Rutherford, his son, Phil Rutherford, and City Councilman H. T. Ellison. It took high respect for law. It took high regard for the good name of their community and of the individuals who live in it. That there are Southern white men like these four is a good augury. We shall hope it is an augury that one day there will be no other kind.

Mon. 6-23-47

THE Courier Salutes

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

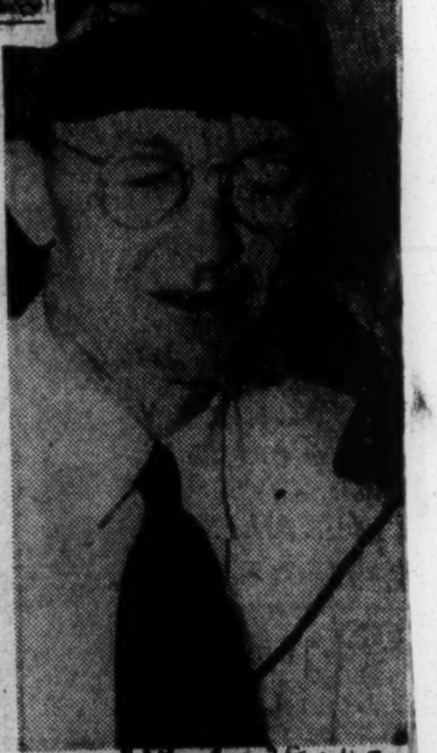
The calm quiet words of the 47-year-old Mayor of a town deep in the heart of Alabama caused members of a bloodthirsty mob of would-be lynchers to turn away from their nefarious mission, and go back to their homes quietly and peacefully, without having taken the life of a trembling Negro boy who stood with a death noose already knotted about his throat.

309 Ala.

Mayor Hugh Vann of Hurtsboro, Ala., made history for the South that day!

From the four corners of America, and from far across the Atlantic came messages, letters and trans-Atlantic phone calls. And they were in loud approval and praise for the deed of this Southern Mayor, Hugh Vann. His deed had set a pattern for all the South where mob violence and lynchings have been running rampant. Sat. 6-28-47

Whether the South heeds this graphic lesson so eloquently demonstrated by Mayor Vann, remains to be seen. But that 47-year-old man has pointed out the road to be followed in reaching the solution to the South's No. 1 problem. And he has caused a ray of hope to pierce the dark curtain. He has pleased his God, and encouraged millions of Negroes and better-thinking whites. Therefore The Courier proudly salutes Mayor Hugh Vann of Hurtsboro, Ala.



Sat. 6-28-47

MAYOR HUGH VANN

. . . *For Stand Against Mob*

REAL MAYOR AND—NO MOB

Louisville, Ky. Defender

Since 1882 there have been 4,715 lynchings in this country, and all but 1,291 have been tragedies which have done Negroes to death without "due process of law," according to the Tuskegee Bureau of Records. And the Tuskegee Bureau admits that its record is not complete.

309 Ala.

From time to time through the years from '82, a few mobs have been frustrated. The action of responsible officials has thwarted their attempts to vent the spleen of their prejudice upon marked victims. Sat. 6-21-47

After the orgy of mobism in the South since the last "war for democracy," it is indeed refreshing to read about Mayor Hurt Vann of Hurtsboro, Ala., who with his son and a town councilman, rescued a 19-year-old Negro boy from a mob bent on lynching him. There was no bloodshed; not even the show of a weapon. The earnestness and courage of an official who has pride in the good name of his town and believes in the supremacy of law and order turned the trick.

Years back there was a case here in Kentucky when an infuriated mob surrounded the courthouse and demanded a Negro who was on trial for killing a white man. The mob advanced toward the main entrance of the courthouse. The sheriff, with his deputies at his side, looked the mob straight in the eyes and told the blood-thirsty members of it without quivering, what would happen if they advanced a step farther. The mob dispersed. Sat. 6-21-47

Sheriffs, constables, and other responsible officials who permit lynching gangs to take Negroes or anybody entrusted to their custody are not fooling the public when they alibi that they were overpowered, guns were pointed at their heads, the mob "came like a thief in the night," and other flimsy drivel. The earmarks of their collusion with the mob are too plain.

The lesson of the Hurtsboro, Ala., affair is so obvious that the simplest American can get it. If the officials entrusted with enforcing the law are opposed to lynching, there will be no lynching in this country, not even in the South.

A Mayor Intrudes On a Lynching Bee

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky. Thurs. 6-12-47

309 Ala.

ONE may take hope from the story of the Alabama small-town Mayor who, along with three neighbors, stopped a lynching by moral suasion. Here is proof that calmness, wisdom and obligation to a sense of order are what it takes to keep people acting like civilized beings. When these things come together in the right place, they prevail over passion and force.

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7584

30g 1947

Florida

7585

Bride Badly Beaten; Attacker Hurt By Mob

30g News

Birmingham, Ala.

MNAMI BEACH, Fla., Oct. 27—(AP)—A 26-year-old bride of six weeks was reported in a critical condition today after being beaten on the head with a flatiron wielded by an intruder who told police he mistook her for another woman.

The bride, Mrs. Shirley Berger, was asleep in an apartment with her husband when the beating was administered. 30g man.

Detctive Charles V. Pierce said that John J. Jurkowski, 23, was held on a charge of felonious assault. 10-27-47 ✓

Mrs. Berger underwent brain surgery yesterday. man.

The detective said Jurkowski told him that he entered the Berger apartment by mistake and thought he was beating Phyllis Jane Swartz, a 24-year-old waitress who had left a bar after he gave her his wallet with $80 to hold.

The attack awakened Albert Berger, who went to his wife's aid. Berger's brother-in-law, Edward Horowitz, chased Jurkowski, who was caught two blocks from the scene. An aroused crowd had kicked him into unconsciousness by the time police arrived.

Preacher Helps Avert Lynch Threat By Taking Stand Against Mob

The Fla. Tattler
Jacksonville, Fla.
30g gen.
Sat. 8-2-47

A threatened lynching was recently prevented largely by a Methodist preacher, Rev. J. D. McDavid, of the Alabama Conference. At his request the name of the town is withheld, for "The community is now glad the threat was averted and I think should not suffer the embarrassment of publicity about it."

Early last month a prominent citizen, a member of Mr. McDavid's church, was killed by a Negro. The killer escaped to a near-by swamp where he was captured next morning by a civilian posse. No officers were present and sentiment was strong for immediate mob vengeance. Learning of this situation, the young preacher joined the posse, took his stand beside the car where the Negro was held and, with the support of a few others of like mind, succeeded in dissuading and standing off the would-be lynchers for forty-five minutes till the sheriff arrived. The officer then took the man in charge and started with him to the county jail, thirty miles away. Still apprehensive of possible violence, the young preacher followed the sheriff's car for several miles, and turned back only when reasonably sure that the prisoner would be delivered safely, as he was. Sat. 2-1-47

Tuskegee Reports 6 Out Of Every 7 Lynchings Averted

Atlanta, Ga.
Tues. 7-29-47
(30g) gen.

Tuskegee Institute has announced that findings from its records on lynchings reveal that during the last ten years 273 lynchings have been prevented whereas there were 43 cases where the mob succeeded in usurping the principle of law and order.

Atlanta Daily World

Tuskegee which is considered the authority on lynching has tabulated this form of American savagery since 1882. Tues. 7-29-47

PALMETTO STATE

By Modjeska M. Simkins

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Va.
30g gen.

The Richland County (S. C.) Sheriff Has Been Made To Ride The Goat, "Straddle Without A Saddle"

COLUMBIA, S. C. — Columbia citizens of color, along with hundreds of white citizens, are angry and disgusted, and rightly so, because Richland County Sheriff T. Alex Heise has not divulged his findings in the back-firing Edgewood lynch rehearsal. Though too long delayed, there was bristling defiance in a protest directed on June 23 to the zigzagging sheri[illegible] Columbia branch of the NAACP, which said in part:

"The entire Negro citizenry of Columbia has stood stigmatized and condemned for more than a fortnight because of the manner in which this case has been handled. We believe, and rightly so, that you and the press and radio officials should be as earnest and persistent in exposing your findings as you were obviously anxious to get out your first releases. You know that the Associated Press and the United Press services have carried the accounts of this alleged attack all over this Nation and throughout the world.

"Elsewhere we stand accused because of these press and radio reports while constant local rumors would have us believe that a Negro was never in the case from the beginning. Even you, in a press release a few days ago, refused to say whether the alleged attacker is now believed to be white or black.

"As officers of the law, you and your paid assistants stand indicted as incompetent to solve an apparently simple case occurring in broad daylight in a neighborhood where houses are only a few feet apart, and where it is admitted that the alleged point of attack was immediately surrounded. We are confident that you will agree that in justice to yourselves as well, a full and unbiased expose' of the case should have been made days ago. Sat. 7-19-47

"Further, we would protest the composition of the posse in the Edgewood case. We do not condemn the use of a posse under necessary conditions, but we are willing to concede only that posse members should be carefully selected, deputized and properly instructed. Professional enforcement of the law and hoodlumism should not be compatible, and cannot be."

Although Sheriff Heise still has not spoken, his ominous silence screams loudly a shameful fact that must have hit him and other thousands of southern law enforcement officers between the eyes long ago, and that is: Many of the "pure white women," whom they are sworn to protect, have absolutely no regard for the truth where Negroes are concerned. They think no lie is too big to tell if "some Negro man" is to be incriminated, no matter what theeir earlier relations with these men may have been, **IF ANY.**

The Richland county sheriff has been made to ride the goat, "straddle without a saddle." And hundreds of capable South Carolina lynchers who wanted to participate in the case were forced to return, discouraged, and disgraced, "to their vomit" on finding that the alleged Negro assailant "had never been born, and his papa was dead."

Maybe the sheriff is now of the mind to do something that is his duty and that of the governor as well, and that is to urgently request that all women, especially white women, not make false outcries against men, regardless of color. The Edgewood "hog" and a glaring hoax in the city of Columbia during the same period should give them and their constituents and assistants "THE BOOK WITH THE LESSON IN IT."

Commenting on the aborted lynch effort at Carrollton, Georgia, George A. Buchanan, editor of **The Columbia Record** said on July 2, "Determined law enforcement officers, aware of their responsibilities, can go a long way toward preventing lynchings. Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert of Carrollton supplied another demonstration of how to prevent a lynching when he held off 300 members of a white mob until reinforcements could arrive to rescue a Negro murder suspect on Monday. 'I'm warning you,' he told spokesmen of the mob, 'if a man comes inside this jail, he's going to get shot, and shot dead.'" Sat. 7-19-47

Mr. Buchanan and I are in complete agreement. Determined officers can prevent lynchings. Hot lead will stop the finest white supremist and the biggest bully — ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. When law enforcement officers decide to drop a few of these barbarians in their tracks instead of appeasing them by sacrificing the persons they have sworn to protect with their lives, the South can look once more into the eyes of the world, and face the sun, for then lynchings will be eradicated.

I have high regard for Mr. Lambert for DOING HIS DUTY. No more can be asked of any man, and no greater task can be performed by an angel. All of us who believe in the majesty and supremacy of the laws of this Nation should tell him that he has done a commendable job.

B'ham Age-Herald Bham, Ala

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE reported last week that six out of every seven potential lynchings are being prevented in the South by courageous peace officers, alert public officials and popular reaction against mob murder. 30g gen.

Seventeen lynchings were prevented in the first six months of 1947, the Tuskegee report said, while one victim, Willie Earle, of Greenville, S. C., died at the hands of a mob. Six Negroes were saved from mob violence in Alabama, one in Georgia, four in Mississippi and one in North Carolina, the report revealed. 30g gen.

Meanwhile Ohio prevented the lynching of two white men, Massachusetts saved another and a Negro was rescued from a potential lynch mob in Kansas. Altogether 273 prevented lynchings were listed within the last 10 years, against 43 cases in which a mob succeeded in executing its version of "justice," Tuskegee said. Sun. 8-3-47

Journal and Guide

New York Daily Praises Sheriff

30g
Norfolk, Va. Sat. 7-19-47

NEW YORK — Acting Sheriff Otis King of Carrollton, Ga., was praised by the New York Herald-Tribune editorially as a man of intelligence and courage for foiling a mob bent on lynching a prisoner being held for the shotgun murder of a white man.

Mention was also made of the Alabama mayor who out-talked a mob of would be lynchers.

"Precedent accumulates each time a mob is foiled, and makes another Greenville outrage just that much more difficult", commented the Herald Tribune.

Birmingham News

Troopers On Guard At Trial Of Negro

Birming. Ala
Thursday 7-24-47

CARROLLTON, Ga., July 24—(AP)—A growing crowd of sun-tanned, overall-clad farmers milled about the Carroll County Courthouse under the watchful eye of state troopers today as the state prepared to try Eddie Brown, 20-year-old Negro for the slaying of a white man.

Brown barely escaped a mob which stormed the county jail the night of June 30.

Capt. F. L. Brock, in command of the special detachment of 35 troopers, said he expected no trouble but had orders to "open up immediately" if the crowd got out of hand. The troopers were armed with tear gas bomb projectors.

The court room opened at 10 a.m. the troopers started admitting spectators one-by-one, searching each.

Brown, a farmer, is accused of shotgunning to death George Andrew Boyd, 28, white tenant farmer who lived some three miles from the Negro in the Sand Hill community. Thurs. 7-24-47

Brown has consistently pleaded that he was "shooting at a rabbit."

Curb On Lynchings

Journal + Guide - Norfolk, Va.

THAT most reliable keeper of records on mob-murder, Tuskegee Institute, gives encouraging information about the increasing effectiveness of the efforts to curb lynchings. Its records department reports that six out of every seven potential lynchings have been prevented in the South in the last ten years. Credit for these preventive successes is given to courageous peace officers, alert public officials, and popular reaction against the crime of lynching. Sat. 8-2-47 30g

Tuskegee, which has compiled statistics on lynchings since 1882, states that in the last ten years there have been 273 prevented lynchings, against 43 cases in which a mob succeeded in executing its version of rope-and-faggot justice. gen.

More to the point, in 1947's first six months there were seventeen prevented lynchings. Among the victims saved from the hands of mobs were two white men in Massachusetts.

This highlights the point made frequently by observers, and they are supported by the facts, that lynching is a reversion to the law of the jungle that will cross the color lines and ignore regional boundaries where the emotional stability of the community is permitted to get out of hand.

These sample successes are the brighter side of a situation which finds that 4,717 lives have been taken by mobbists since 1882. There are still too many lynchings, and will be as long as there is one of record. There are still too many unsolved lynchings. And Greenville, S. C., showed not long ago that even self-confessed participants in a lynching foray may escape their just deserts even in a court of so-called justice, when a jury of the same community deigns to ignore the facts and be guided by passion and twisted thinking. Sat. 8-2-47

A nation wholly sickened by the persistence of mobbings will be grateful to all the forces that have so far curbed and may eventually stamp out extra-legal executions.

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17 Lynchings Prevented

30g gen.

TUSKEGEE (ANP) — Tuskegee Institute reported last week that six out of every seven potential lynchings are being prevented in the South by courageous peace officers, alert public officials and popular reaction against mob murder. Sat. 8-9-47

Seventeen lynchings were prevented in the first six months of 1947, the Tuskegee report said. Six Negroes were saved from mob violence in Alabama, one in Georgia, four in Mississippi, and one in North Carolina, the report revealed. Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

Meanwhile Ohio prevented the lynchings of two white men, Massachusetts saved another and a Negro was rescued from a potential lynch mob in Kansas. Although 273 prevented lynchings were listed within the last ten years, against forty-three cases in which a mob succeeded in executing its version of "justice," Tuskegee said.

30g

Planting A Bad Suggestion

Daily World, Atlanta Ga.

The white daily press on October 20th carried a release from the United Press in which Sheriff C. C. Chapman of Houston County stated that a group of 10 to 15 Negro men came to the jail at Perry, Georgia Saturday "and begged us to turn him (another Negro, James Davis, who was charged with criminally assaulting a young Negro girl) over to them." The sheriff is also quoted as having added: "If we had, that bunch would have lynched him in no time." Tue. 10-21-47

In the first place, if the group only "begged" the sheriff for the prisoner they would not have committed the extreme act of lynching which is simply murder. On the other hand, if the group was menacing it seems to us it was the duty of the sheriff to arrest them.

But on the basis of the reported facts, we think it was bad judgement for a sheriff and the news agency too that circulated it to suggest that Negroes are going to take up the lynching evil. Or was the sheriff in an indirect way trying to justify the lynching of Negroes by white men?

Lynching is the greatest evil of our civilization for numerous reasons which we have stated many times previously. By no means should its spread even be suggested. On the other hand attempts at it should be vigorously resisted and suppressed.

We have also previously stated our desire to see all those charged with the crime of criminal assault speedily prosecuted to the extent of the law. We have on the statute books adequate laws to deal with rapists and lynchers, or murderers, too, for that matter.

What is needed is vigorous enforcement of the laws regardless of the racial identity of those concerned. In this latest case, let us hope the law will be observed.

We can understand how the passions of men can be aroused especially when assault has been committed on a girl. But mob law is never justified. It only begets more crime and eventual disrespect for law.

The answer is vigorous prosecution of men charged with the heinous crime of rape. But never mob law regardless of the charge.

Man Beaten Fatally After Mother's Attack

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

Sat. 11-15-47

Four Sons And Woman Held; Violence Feared

30g

ELLAVILLE, Ga. — (SNS)— Following the death of a 64-year-old white farmer who reportedly got his rifle to shoot farm animals belonging to a Negro family, the family— comprising a mother and her four sons—have been lodged in separate and undisclosed jails for fear of mob violence.

Mrs. Rose Lee Ingram and her four sons, Sammy Lee, James, Charlie Wallace and Jackson are being held on formal charges of murdering the farmer, John Ed Stratford, Sheriff Edgar Devane had said the farmer apparently found mules and hogs belonging to the Negro family in his corn field and got his .32 calibre rifle to shoot them.

GUN IN HAND

With gun in hand the farmer met Mrs. Ingram, the Sheriff continued, and she claimed he cursed and abused her. A tussle was believed to have ensued during which Mrs. Ingram's four sons intervened when seeing the impending danger confronting their mother. During the tusle the irate farmer was only subdued after he was struck a heavy blow across the head by one of the sons. It was this blow which apparently led to his death.

The blow was believed to have been struck with a claw hammer weilded by one of the sons who fought desperately to save his mother from being shot by the farmer.

Jackson Ingram, Mrs. Ingram's fifth son was not involved in the fatal altercation but was jailed as a precaution of vengeance at the hands of mobsters, the Sheriff related. Sat. 11-15-47

SEE POSSIBLE VIOLENCE

"There is some possibility of mob violence," the Sheriff said, "but we are taking all precautions to avoid it." 11-7-47

The Ingrams lived on the M. Dillinger farm and the slaying is reported to have occured half way between their farm and the Stratford home.

Coroner R. N. Chapman said two of four heavy blows resulted in the death of Stratford, surmising that he did not die immediately but did not know how long he had lived after the attack. Sat

The fight over the livestock had been going on for weeks, Sheriff Devane reported.

One of the sons was accused of robbing the farmer of $133. It is alleged that the purse and the money were dug up Wednesday night behind a barn at the home of the Ingrams.

Stratford who is survived by his wife and two children lived in Schley County near LaCrosse, just north of the Sumter County line.

7587

Heroic Officer Halts Lynch-Minded Mob

Atlanta Constitution Wed. 7-2-47

30g Ga.

CARROLLTON, July 1—(UP)—A heroic deputy sheriff, alternately pleading at the top of his voice and brandishing a lone gun against 300 angry men, saved a Negro from almost certain lynching Monday night while the intended victim crouched terrified in a jail cell a few feet away.

Finally, help piled in from all sides and Deputy Russell Lambert was able to report that his prisoner, 22-year-old Eddie Brown, who was accused of killing a white farmer, had been saved for the due processes of justice.

For nearly three hours, a mob stormed Carroll County Jail in Carrollton, 50 miles West of Atlanta, while Lambert stood his ground, although at times the lynchers mauled him and threatened to kill him as well as the Negro.

In another room an assistant was frantically telephoning every police department, sheriff's office and State Highway Patrol station in the vicinity for reinforcements.

Shortly after midnight, strong reinforcements came and the Negro was slipped out a rear entrance of the jail under the tommy-guns of a score of officers. He was spirited away to Atlanta and put in Fulton County Tower for safekeeping.

Lambert said he spotted the lynch mob about 9 p. m. Monday night from a window of his residence on the Villa Rica-Carrollton Road. He said he counted 72 automobiles and a school bus.

Local anger had mounted since Brown was arrested for the slaying of Andrew Boyd, 28-year-old Villa Rica white farmer. Lambert guessed the purpose of the long, winding caravan and dashed for his telephone to sound a warning.

"For God's sake, hold them off until I get there, Otis," he yelled to Deputy Sheriff Otis King who was on duty at the jail.

Lambert went into the jail through the back door, arriving ahead of most of the mobsters. He was ready for them when their grim leader, his face smudged with lampblack for a disguise, called through the door:

"We came for Eddie Brown, and we ain't fooling."

For the next three hours the mob leaders and Lambert carried on a terse dialogue while King was summoning help. When the mobsters pressed close, Lambert held them off with his pistol.

"There's going to be law in this county," Lambert told them. "Go back to your homes and let justice be done. Eddie Brown must have a fair trial."

Atlanta Constitution

Impatient men in the rear of the mob yelled out, "Come on, what are we waiting for? Let's go get him." Wed 7-2-47

"If a man comes inside this jail, he'll not go out of it alive," Lambert warned them.

The leader told Lambert that they feared the Negro would be sentenced to only life imprisonment from which he would be paroled in a few years on good behavior.

"We've got our own brand of justice for niggers like him," he said, "and we intend to see it done right." Atlanta Constitution

But the mob never bolstered its nerve sufficiently to force a mass entrance ot the jail by storm. Some members decided to call it a night but shouted that "we'll be back for him at 6 o'clock."

In his Atlanta jail cell, Brown said "I was scared nearly to death. Those white men were all over the ground outside that jail. If they had gotten in, I just would a been a goner." Wed 7-2-47

Brown, a strapping farm laborer, identified the mob leader only as "a man with overalls and a straw hat." 30g Ga.

He said he watched the whole scene from a third floor window and could plainly hear the mob chanting "we want Eddie Brown," "we want Eddie Brown."

Fulton County Jailor Hugh W. Cromer said Brown had signed a confession after his arrival here that he killed Boyd. The Negro said he did it because Boyd teased him. 7-2-47.

Boyd's body was found late Saturday on the banks of the Tallapoosa River. He had a bullet wound in the head and his throat was slashed by a knife.

7588

7588

30g

Foiling The Mobsters

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

President Truman's ringing speech on the solemn obligation resting upon America to protect the civil rights guarantees of all American citizens failed to make so much as a dent upon the moral conscience of the 300 odd white citizens of Carrollton, Georgia, who last Tuesday, gathered at the county jail to lynch a Negro in connection with the death of a white farmer. And therein lies the stubborn cause for the breakdown in law enforcement and human decency. For no matter what the charge or guilt of an offender, the clear and unmistakable law is that all citizens, no matter their color, creed or nationality, must be given the "due process of law" guarantee as required by the U. S. Constitution.

Despite this lawless procedure, it is fortunate for all of us that the officers of the law, a sheriff and two policemen, stood firm by their sworn oaths to uphold the law by resisting successfully the mob's determination and rescued the accused Negro to safety. And for that courageous action, we join with Governor M. E. Thompson in voicing our praise and our sincere appreciation to them. By their action they lifted themselves to a high rank in the minds of law abiding white and Negro Georgians as well as saving their community from the increasing threat and stigma of mob violence and lawlessness. Wed. 7-9-47

The whole incident at Carrollton serves once again to emphasize the urgent necessity of pressing vigorously and persistently for favorable action on some form of anti-lynching legislation. We must continue to insist that the argument that education is the solution to such a vexing and threatening problem, will not provide the answer. It is no more logical to depend upon the slow process of education to blot out lynching and mob violence than it is to depend upon the same snail-like process to outlaw war between nations, crime against individuals or to stamp out theft and robbery in a community. Nations still go to war to correct the upsurpation of each others' prerogatives. Laws are passed and enforced to deter people from stealing. And laws must be passed to safeguard minorities from mob violence and civil injustices. Wed. 7-9-47

Stout-Hearted Deputy Bars Georgia Mob From Negro

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

30g

Wed. 7-2-47

CARROLLTON, GA., July 1.—(AP)—A belligerent peace officer, who locked himself in his own jail and threw away the keys, rallied police reinforcements against an armed mob for more than four hours last night and saved a Negro prisoner from lynching.

Chief Deputy Otis King, acting in absence of vacationing Sheriff B. B. Kilgore, said he barricaded himself inside the Carroll County jail shortly after 9 p.m., when alerted that a mob was coming to get the Negro. While an assistant parleyed with leaders of the mob, King said, he telephoned for help. Wed. 7-2-47

"I kept calling for help," he related, "and pretty soon I had a good deal of it." More than a score of city police, sheriff's deputies and state patrolmen were on the scene within an hour, and formed a cordon around the jail.

King said Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert and Chief of Police Rader Threadgill, who stood outside the jail door, were bruised and scratched when they were "pushed around" but otherwise were unhurt. Five locked doors separated the mob from its intended victim.

The Negro prisoner, 20-year-old Eddie Brown, Jr., remained in his third floor cell while the mob yelled outside. Charged with murder of a white man last week-end, he was said by King to have confessed the shotgun slaying of Andrew Boyd, 28, but insisted it was accidental. Wed. 7-2-47

King said the mob-estimated at between 100 and 300, some with masks and some with blackened faces—dispersed about 1:30 a.m. State troopers later whisked Brown from the jail, and took him along back roads to Atlanta for safety.

The chief deputy said he "didn't want to kill anybody." but was prepared to resist with tear gas and with guns if the mob had fought its way into the jail.

Deputy Bluffs A Lynch Mob In Georgia

PM New York, N.Y.

Wed. 7-2-47

30g

CARROLLTON, Ga.

Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert is the hero of a lynching that didn't happen. A crowd of more than a hundred men, some masked, others with faces blackened, were at the jail door demanding Willie Brown, 20, a Negro accused of killing a white farmer.

Standing in the jail door for almost an hour, waiting for State troopers, Lambert bluffed mob leaders while would-be lynchers in the background cried: "What are we waiting for?" Wed. 7-2-47

"If a man comes inside this jail he's going to get shot, and shot dead," Lambert warned. "This county's going to give its people justice—black or white."

Inside the jail, other deputies stood ready with tear gas guns, prepared to act if the mob crossed the threshold. Lambert was still holding the fort when State troopers drew up to the back door of the jail and whisked Brown away to Atlanta.

Georgia Negro Rushed To Atlanta For Safety

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

30g Wed. 7-23-47

MARIETTA, GA., July 22.—(AP)—A 13-year-old Negro, arrested in an alleged attack on a 60-year-old white woman, was rushed to Atlanta for safekeeping today when Police Captain E. R. Sanders said "violence was feared" from about 150 men who had aided in the search for the youth.

The Negro, identified by Sanders as Charles Mozley, was arrested by police near the Marietta city limits. Sanders said Mrs. Martha Youngblood identified him as her assailant.

While police held the Negro in an automobile, the searchers crowded around. Though none of them made a threat against the Negro, several were armed with guns, Sanders said, and Marietta Police Chief H. P. Griggs ordered quick removal of the Negro to Atlanta, 20 miles away. Wed. 7-23-47

Herald - Tribune Praises Foiling Of Georgia Mob

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

30g Wed. 7-9-47

NEW YORK—(NNPA)— The New York Herald Tribune, commenting editorially last Thursday on the action of a deputy sheriff who foiled a mob bent on lynching a prisoner under the caption, "Good News From Georgia," said:

"The town of Carrollton, Ga., almost had a lynching on Monday night. A mob of 300 white men went to the county jail to get a Negro being held or the shotgun murder of a white farmer. The pattern is quite familiar. This could easily have been the notorious story of the Greenville, S .C. taxi drivers all over again. But there was an important difference. This time the mob could not get into the jail.

"The acting sheriff, Otis King, happened to be a man of intelligence and courage. He heard there was a mob organizing, and went to work. After locking the Negro behind five barriers, and throwing away the keys, the jailer telephoned for reinforcements. Twenty city county and state agents of the law stood off the mob four hours, by which time the crisis was over .

"Only a few weeks ago a quick-witted Alabama mayor out-talked a mob, saving the prospective victim's life when the rope was already in place. It is worth adding that the sequel in this case was that the rescued Negro was convicted in a proper court of law before the month was out, and sentenced to twenty years in prison.

"There was courageous leadership in both instances, and there have been two other cases within the year. Example was set. Precedent accumulates each time a mob is foiled, and makes another Greenville outrage just that much more difficult. And the list of heroes to whom the South and the whole nation are indebted grows slowly but surely." Wed. 7-9-47

Georgia Police Balk Lynching Attempt

Bham, Ala. News

Wed. 7-2-47

CARROLLTON, Ga., July 2—(AP)—A police cordon thrown around the Carroll County Jail Monday night prevented the lynching of a Negro. He was held for the murder of a white man, Chief Deputy Otis King said.

30g

Carrollton police and Georgia state troopers joined sheriff's deputies in thwarting the mob, estimated at between 100 and 300 men. Some of the mob had blacked their faces. Some of whom were masked.

King said the mob broke up early this morning without making any effort to break the police line although two officers "were pushed around" at the jail door.

Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert and Chief of Police Rader Threadgill suffered minor bruises.

King said they were outside the jail "trying to reason with the mob" and that they were pushed away several times but returned.

The Negro, 20-year-old Eddie Brown, Jr., is charged with the week-end shotgun slaying of Andrew Boyd, 28. Brown was slipped from the jail in the early morning hours and taken to Atlanta by state troopers. The mob dispersed around 1:30 a.m. Wed. 7-2-47

Gov. Thompson Lauds Officers Who Foiled Mob

30g

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Fri. 7-4-47

Action of the three stalwart officers who prevented a mob of 300 would-be lynchers from removing Eddie Brown, Jr., from the Carroll county jail Monday night evoked words of commendation from Governor Thompson Thursday.

Speaking of Deputy Henry Russell Lambert, the governor extolled his alertness for sounding the alarm that gave the officers time to gird themselves for the expected attack. The governor praised the manner in which Chief Rader Threadgill, of Carrollton, Deputy Otis King, along with Lambert, took their stand and held off the persistent mob which swarmed around the county jail. Fri. 7-4-47

"I am confident that a great majority of the 300 persons who congregated around the jail in Carrollton are glad that they were prevented from doing a thing that would have reflected upon themselves and on their state," said the governor.

Special Detail Guards Negro At Murder Trial

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

30g

Thurs. 7-24-47

—(AP)—A special police detail including state troopers has been ordered to the Carroll County courthouse tomorrow for the murder trial of Eddie Brown, Jr., 20-year-old Negro, who on June 30 narrowly escaped a mob. Brown is charged with the slaying of George Andrew Boyd, 28. The case is scheduled to be called before Judge Samuel Boykin at 10 a.m., EST.

The Negro has been in an Atlanta jail since he was rushed out of Carrollton while Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert held the mob by threatening to fire into it. Thurs. 7-24-47

Boy, 13, Saved From Crowd of 300

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution Wed. 7-23-47

After Assault Try on Woman, 72

309

MARIETTA, July 22—(UP)—A cringing 13-year-old Negro Tuesday was saved from an angry crowd of 300 white men, after an attempted criminal assault of a 72-year-old grandmother in a berry patch. Police reached the youth first and spirited him 20 miles in a police car to Atlanta for safekeeping.

The crowd was armed with shotguns, rifles, pistols, brass knuckles and clubs as the Negro was snatched safely away to the State's nearby capital city.

The woman, her face and arms scarred by briars and her faded dress torn, went to the Fulton County jail after she regained her composure and identified her attacker. Wed. 7-23-47

Charles Mozley was charged with assault, and Cobb County authorities said he would probably be indicted and placed on trial during a term of criminal court now in session.

The victim told police she and two grandsons, aged 10 and 11, were picking berries in a field at the edge of town Tuesday morning when the Negro attacked her.

Mozley fled when the boys began screaming, piled on his back and attempted to pull him away from their grandmother.

The attack occurred about two miles from the spot where Leo Frank, a white man, was ranged from a tree 32 years ago by a mob seeking revenge for the murder of Mary Phagan, a pencil factory worker, whose body was found stuffed in a furnace in the basement of the plant.

News of the assault on the elderly woman spread through downtown Marietta almost as fast as it reached police headquarters. While officers raced to the scene to search for the Negro, the crowd began forming to start a search of its own. Wed. 7-23-47

Acting on a hunch, officers went directly to the Negro's house. The youth was there and admitted being in the vicinity of the berry patch but denied the assault.

Police, guessing that the crowd would not be long finding where the boy was, rushed him off to Atlanta. The other searchers reached the Negro house a few moments later.

The woman told police that Mozley had on a wide-brimmed fancy hat and wore a blue bandana that partly covered his face.

She said he threw her to the ground and pinned her arms at her side. Her underclothing was missing and her body was bruised and scratched.

Man Saved From Mob

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

To Go On Trial Thursday

309

Constitution State News Service. Wed. 7-23-47

CARROLLTON, July 22—A special session of the Carroll County Grand Jury Tuesday returned a murder indictment against Eddie Brown, Jr., 20-year-old Negro charged with the slaying of George Andrew Boyd, 28, white, of the Sand Hill community last June 27.

Judge Samuel J. Boykin, of the Superior Court, has set the trial for 10 a. m. Thursday.

A mob of 300 angry men stormed the Carroll County jail June 30 in an effort to take the Negro from custody of officers. Judge Boykin has taken extraordinary precautions to prevent mob violence during the trial. He has directed the Carroll County police officers, the State Patrol and the Carrollton city police to guard the Courthouse during the trial and to keep a strict watch upon those admitted to the courtroom.

The courage of Russell Lambert and Otis King, deputy sheriffs, aided by Chief Rada Threadgill and Night Patrolman Joe McClarty, of the Carrollton police force, prevented mob violence on the night the crowd gathered to storm the jail. Lambert kept the mob at bay by threatening to fire on any one who tried to break into the jail. Meanwhile, an assistant telephoned for aid from the State Patrol. Wed. 7-23-47

Sol. Gen. Luther M. Eyatt, of LaGrange, will prosecute Brown. Judge Boykin has appointed Emmett Smith, Oscar Roberts and Tom Herndon, Jr., to defend him.

Police officers said that Brown had confessed to the slaying of Boyd.

Attack Suspect

Courier-Journal

Taken to Safety

Louisville, Ky.

Of Atlanta Jail

309

Wed. 7-23-47

Marietta, Ga., July 22 (AP)—Capt. E. R. Sanders of the Marietta police said today that a 15-year-old Negro, identified as the attacker of a white woman, was sped to an Atlanta jail for safety today when "violence was feared" at the hands of about 150 men who had aided police in a search for him. Wed. 7-23-47

Police Chief H. P. Griggs ordered quick removal of the Negro when the searchers crowded around a police car. Sanders said the Negro, Charles Mosley, was identified by the woman as the one who attacked her while she and two of her grandchildren were picking berries.

Deputy Foils Mob

The Kansas City Mo. Call

In Lynch Attempt

Fri. 7-11-47

309

Locks Self In Prisoner's Cell

CARROLLTON, Ga.—(ANP)—One way of protecting a prisoner from a lynch mob was demonstrated here last week by a peace officer, who locked himself in his own jail, phoned for reinforcements, and held an armed mob at bay for more than four hours. The man was Chief Deputy Otis King, acting in the absence of Sheriff B. B. Kilgore, who is on vacation.

The mob had gathered to lynch Eddie Brown Jr., 20-year-old confessed slayer of Andrew Boyd, 28, white, two weeks ago. King barricaded himself inside the Carroll county jail shortly after 9 p.m. June 30, after learning that a mob was coming to get the prisoner. While an assistant talked with mob leaders, King telephoned for help, and within a hour, had about 20 city police, sehriff's deputies and state patrolmen forming a cordon around the jail.

Brown was in a cell on the third floor while the mob yelled outside. According to King, the prisoner had confessed to the shotgun slaying of his victim, but insisted that it was accidental.

Estimates put the number of the mob at between 100 and 300. Some of the mob were masks while others had blackened faces, King said that Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert and Police Chief Rader Threadgill, who stood outside the jail door, were bruised and scratched when they were "pushed around." Five locked doors separated the mob from its intended victim. Fri. 7-11-47

When the foiled lynchers dispersed around 1:30 a.m. July 1, state troopers took Brown from the jail, and carried him to Atlanta for safety. The chief deputy said he "didn't want to kill anybody," but was prepared to resist an invasion with tear gas, and if necessary, with guns.

Borwn is being held for the October session of the Carroll county grand jury, but agitation is being spread about for a special session to consider murder charges against the prisoner. If a special term of court is not called, trial will not be held until October.

Foil Lynch Try

Daily Worker

In Georgia

New York, N.Y.

309

MARIETTA, Ga., July 22.—Charles Mosley, 15, a Negro, was saved today from a mob of 300 white men bent on lynching him for an alleged attack on a 72-year-old grandmother in a berry patch. Police got to the youth first and spirited him 20 miles in a police car to Atlanta for safekeeping.

The mob was armed with shotguns, rifles, pistols, brase knuckles and clubs. Wed. 7-23-47

Mrs. Martha Youngblood went to the Fulton County (Atlanta) jail and allegedly identified Mosley.

Mosley was charged with assault with intent to murder, and Cobb county authorities said he would probably be indicted and placed on trial during the term of criminal court now in session. Wed. 7-23-47

Saved Man In Fulton

309 Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Tower For Safe-Keeping

Wed. 7-2-47

CARROLLTON, Ga.—(SNS)—Two alert officers here were credited with saving the life of Eddie Brown Jr., Monday night when they held off with drawn guns and barred doors an aroused mob of 300 masked white men who had gathered at the Carroll county jail in an attempt to remove the prisoner and lynch him. Officers credited with averting the lynching are Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert and Carrollton Police Chief Rada Threadgill.

Brown accused of murdering a white farmer, was spirited away to Fulton Tower in Atlanta for safekeeping.

Following his arrest Sunday, the prisoner was being held in the shotgun slaying of Andrew Boyd who was killed late Friday as he was fishing on the Little Talapoosa river.

The body of the farmer was taken from the river Saturday afternoon by Sheriff Kilgore and his deputies.

NOTICED MOB GATHERING

Deputy Lambert said he first noticed the mob gathering about 8 p. m. Monday. They were said to have approached the town in cars and busses down the Villa Rica highway. Deputy Lambert is said to have called Chief Threadgill immediately and rushed over to the jail where he and the chief prepared themselves to thwart the siege. Wed. 7-2-47

About 9 o'clock the mob, many of whom were said to have been masked and their faces blackened, demanded of the Chief that Brown be turned over to them. When the Chief refused the mob rushed the two officers and pulled them out of the doorway and threatened to kill them, it is said.

MOB QUIETED DOWN

The officers aimed their guns at the mob leaders and repulsed several more attacks by the mob while they waited for aid which had been summoned from nearby towns. Although no shots were fired, the officers suffered scratches and bruises at the hands of the mobsters.

Shortly after midnight the mob quieted down and Brown was taken to Atlanta by two patrolmen via Villa Rica, Griffin and LaGrange.

The officers claim that Brown admitted the shotting but said that it was accidental. He was shooting rabbits at the time the fatal shot was fired, Brown is said to have stated. He became scared when he saw the farmer fall, Brown reportedly stated, and dumped his body into the river.

Brown was arrested while sleeping at the home of his brother near Carrollton. He is said to have admitted taking the victim's car after the slaying driving it into town where he traded it for another machine and left town.

7589

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer-Sun
July 2, 1947

Heroic Carrollton Deputy Holds Off Lynching Mob

30g

CARROLLTON, Ga., July 1—(U.P.)—A heroic deputy sheriff, alternately pleading at the top of his voice and brandishing a lone gun against 300 angry men, saved a Negro from almost certain lynching last night while the intended victim crouched terrified in a jail cell a few feet away.

Finally, help piled in from all sides and Deputy Russell Lambert was able to report that his prisoner, 22-year-old Eddie Brown, who was accused of killing a white farmer, had been saved for the due processes of justice.

It was the third time within six weeks that a Negro had escaped application of the lynch law in the south by the narrowest of margins. In Jackson, N. C., a Negro broke loose and escaped from a mob that already had snatched him from jail. In Hurtsboro, Ala., a lynch party had a rope around a suspected rapist's neck when the mayor of the town talked the mobsters out of it.

Threaten Deputy

For nearly three hours, a mob stormed Carroll county jail in Carrollton, 50 miles west of Atlanta, while Russell stood his ground although at times the lynchers mauled him and threatened to kill him as well as the Negro.

In another room an assistant was frantically telephoning every police department, sheriff's office and state highway patrol station in the vicinity for reinforcements.

Spirited to Atlanta

Shortly after midnight, strong reinforcements came and the Negro was slipped out a rear entrance of the jail under the tommy guns of a score of officers. He was spirited away to Atlanta and put in the stout concrete and stone Fulton county tower for safekeeping.

Lambert said he spotted the lynch mob about nine o'clock Monday night from a window of his residence on the Villa Rica-Carrollton road. He said he counted 72 automobiles and a school bus.

Local anger had mounted since Brown was arrested for the slaying of Andrew Boyd, 28-year-old Villa Rica white farmer. Lambert guessed the purpose of the long, winding caravan and dashed for his telephone to sound a warning.

"For God's sake, hold them off until I get there, Otis," he yelled to Deputy Sheriff Otis King who was on duty at the jail.

Lambert went into the jail through a back door, arriving ahead of most of the mobsters. He was ready for them when their grim leader, his face smudged with lampblack for a disguise, called through the door: "We came for Eddie Brown, sheriff, and we ain't fooling."

For the next three hours the mob leaders and Lambert carried on a terse dialogue while King was summoning help. When the mobsters pressed close, Lambert held them off with his pistol.

"There's going to be law and order in this county," Lambert told them. "Go on back to your homes and let justice be done. Eddie Brown must have a fair trial."

Impatient men in the rear of the mob yelled out, "come on, what are we wating for. Let's go get him."

'Won't Go Oout Alive'

"If a man comes inside this jail, he'll not go out of it alive," Lambert warned them.

The leader told Lambert that they feared the Negro would be sentenced to only life imprisonment from which he would be paroled in a few years on good behavior.

"We've got our own brand of justice for niggers like him," he said, "and we intend to see it done tonight."

But the mob never bolstered its nerve sufficiently to force a mass entrance to the jail by storm. Some members decided to call it a night but shouted that "we'll be back for him at six o'clock."

In his Atlanta jail cell, Brown said "I was scared nearly to death. Those white men were all over the ground outside that jail. If they had gotten in, I jest would a been a goner."

Brown, a strapping farm laborer, identified the mob leader only as "a man with overalls and a straw hat."

In Georgia!

Sat. 8-2-47

Police Save Youth From Mob of 300

30g

MARIETTA, Ga.—(NNPA) — A 13-year-old boy suspect had to be rushed to Atlanta last Tuesday to prevent a mob of 300 white men from lynching him for an alleged attempted rape of a [illegible]-year-old grandmother in a blackberry patch.

Sat. 8/2/47

Police reached the boy first and rushed him off to Atlanta, twenty miles away, for safekeeping. The mob leaders arrived at the boy's house only a few minutes after the officers had driven off with the lad.

Pittsburgh Courier

To carry out their intent to lynch the boy the mob had armed themselves with shotguns, rifles, pistols, brass knuckles and clubs.

Mrs. Martha Youngblood later identified the boy as her assailant in the Fulton County (Atlanta) jail.

Pittsburgh, Pa. 8/2/47

The boy, Charles Mosley, was charged with assault with intent to murder, and Cobb County authorities said he would probably be indicted and brought to trial during the present term of criminal court that is now in session.

Prisoner Saved

The Pittsburgh Courier

Deputy Holds Off Georgia Mob of 300

Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 7-12-47
30g

CARROLLTON, Ga.—Confronted by an angry mob of nearly 300 whites intent upon lynching a murder suspect, Chief Deputy Otis King, acting in absence of Sheriff B. B. Kilgore, successfully held off the mob for more than an hour here last Monday night, until help arrived and eventually carried the prisoner to safety. Eddie Brown Jr., 20, who is said to have confessed slaying Andrew Boyd, 28, a white farmer, two weeks ago, was the mob's intended victim. Having heard that the mob was coming for Brown, King barricaded himself in the Carroll County Jail where he had the prisoner on the third floor. The whites gathered shortly before 9 o'clock, Monday evening, June 30. King telephoned for help and within an hour had sufficient aid to protect his prisoner until he was secretly taken away about 1 A. M.

Sat. 7-12-47

CORDON AROUND JAIL

Approximately a score of city police, sheriff's deputies and State patrolmen formed a cordon around the jail and faced the mob, some of whom wore masks and had their faces blackened. According to Deputy King, Brown confessed the slaying but held that it was accidental.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

When the foiled mob dispersed around 1 A. M., Tuesday, State troopers took Brown from the jail to Atlanta where he is being held for safety.

Pittsburgh Courier

The deputy said he "didn't want to kill anybody" but was prepared to resist an invasion of the jail with tear gas, and if necessary, with guns. Two members of the group deputized by King, who stood outside talking to the mob members before aid arrived, were pushed around and bruised.

THE Courier Salutes

Pittsburgh Courier

A deputy sheriff deep in the heart of the South—in Georgia, where four Negroes were lynched at one time—flashed into the vanguard of the Nation's staunch defenders of right and justice a few days ago.

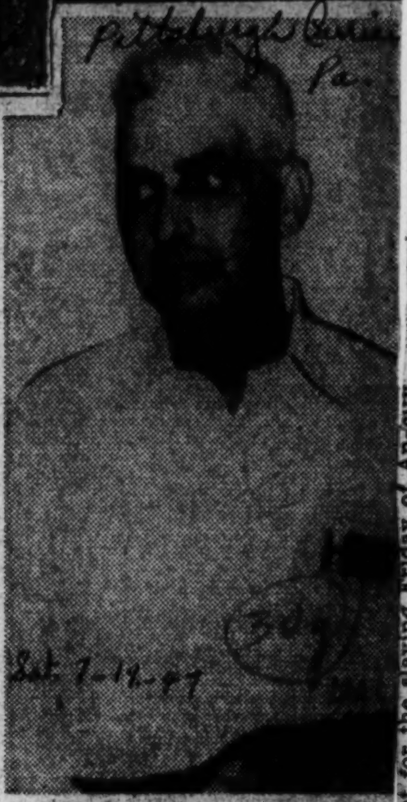
30g

In doing so, he displayed a brand of courage which definitely stamped him as a real MAN. It was more emphatically so, because he is a white man—and we mean that in every sense of the word.

Sat 7-19-47

Chief Deputy Sheriff Otis King of Carrollton, Ga., locked himself inside his jail, flung up a barricade in front of the door, and threw away the jail keys. Then he announced his firm determination to defend his jail with his life, and to fire death-dealing bullets into an angry, bloodthirsty mob of whites—his own color—who stood around the jail demanding a frightened Negro man, whose life they would have.

Deputy Sheriff King gained support when a ring of city policemen, deputies and State patrolmen formed a cordon around the jail and faced the mob. His example inspired those defenders of the law, and the vicious mob broke up and dispersed, afraid to combat this determined man.



Pittsburgh Courier Pa.

Sat. 7-19-47

30g

DEPUTY OTIS KING

. . . for Stand Against Mob

For his great act of courage against many, The Courier salutes Deputy Sheriff Otis King.

LAW INVADES GEORGIA

Chicago Defender

30g

3 Brave Men Hold Mob At Bay, Prevent Lynching

Chicago Ill. Sat 7-12-47

CARROLLTON, Ga. — Three courageous Georgia lawmen emerged as the South's latest heroes, when they halted a mob of 300 men outside Carroll County jail Monday and prevented the lynching of 20-year-old Eddie Brown Jr.

Although bent on taking the life of the terrified youth, accused of killing a Villa-Rica farmer, the lynch gang, many of whom wore masks or had their faces blacked, retreated when Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert and Police Chief Rada Threadgill of Carrollton leveled guns at the leaders. Inside the jail, Chief Deputy Otis King who had locked himself in at the first alarm, frantically called for help.

The two officers held the mob outside at bay for three hours despite repeated attempts of the gang to storm the jail. Their calls for help were finally answered by police from nearby towns. With the arrival of reinforcements, Brown was slipped away by a score of officers armed with tommyguns and placed in mob-proof Fulton Tower in Atlanta.

Deputy Spots Mob

Lambert, who lives about three miles from Carrollton, spotted the mob passing his home in the direction of the jail in 72 cars and a school bus early Monday evening. Guessing their purpose, he telephoned Deputy King and begged him, "For God's sake, hold them off until I get there, Otis." He then called Threadgill and sped to the jail ahead of the mob.

When the mob arrived, the leader whose face was covered with lampblack, called through the door, "We came for Eddie Brown, and we ain't fooling." Lambert replied, "There's going to be law and order in this county." When someone yelled, "Come on, What are we waiting for?" Lambert warned that any man who entered the jail would not leave it alive.

Mob Seizes Deputies

Lambert and Threadgill were pulled out of the outer door of the jail and threatened with death, but they leveled their guns at the mob leaders, forcing a general retreat.

Brown, a farmhand, was arrested Sunday after a widespread manhunt for the slaying Friday of Andrew Boyd, 28, a farmer. Boyd was fishing on the bank of the Little Tallapoosa River when shot.

The youth is said to have admitted shooting Boyd accidentally while hunting rabbits. He reportedly said he was frightened when he saw the farmer fall and dumped his body into the river. Brown is alleged to have confessed to taking the dead man's car and driving it into town where he traded it for another automobile and fled the city.

"Scared To Death"

30g

In his Fulton Tower cell, Brown said, "I was nearly scared to death. Those white men were all over the ground outside that jail. If they had gotten in I jest would have been a goner." He described the mob leader as a man in overalls and a straw hat.

Brown's escape is the third case in six weeks in which a Negro prisoner has missed lynch death in the South. Carrollton is 50 miles west of Atlanta, and 90 miles from

Monroe, scene of the quadruple lynching of last July 25.

Atlanta Constitution 309

Respect for Law

Editor Constitution: I have just read your editorial praising Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert, Police Chief Rada Threadgill and night policeman Joe McClarty. Being a resident of Carrollton and a native of Carroll County, I, too, am proud of the stand that these three officers took in the face of danger the other night.

I wish to thank you, and I am sure I am speaking for the better element of citizens of our town and county, for the splendid editorial. We, too, are proud of these men and I feel that the citizens of Carroll County have a deep feeling for law and we want the law to rule: I think that men in your position, with the influence that you have through the press, could do much for our State, as you have already done, in instilling these principles throughout Georgia.

EARL STAPLES, Solicitor

Wed. 7-9-47

LYNCH MOB FOILED BY LOCKED-IN JAILER

N.Y. 309 Wed. 7-2-47

CARROLLTON, Ga., July 1 (AP)—A belligerent peace officer, who locked himself in his own jail and threw away the keys, rallied police reinforcements against an armed mob for more than four hours last night and saved a Negro prisoner from lynching. New York Times

Chief Deputy Otis King, acting in the absence of vacationing Sheriff B. B. Kilgore, said he barricaded himself inside the Carroll County jail shortly after 9 P. M. when he learned that a mob was coming to get the Negro. While an assistant talked with leaders of the mob King telephoned for help.

More than a score of city police, sheriff's deputies and state patrolmen were on the scene within an hour and formed a cordon around the jail. Wed-7-2-47

King said Deputy Sheriff Russell Lambert and Chief of Police Rader Threadgill, who stood outside the jail door, were bruised and scratched when they were "pushed around," but otherwise were unhurt. Five locked doors separated the mob from its intended victim. New York, N.Y.

The prisoner, 20-year-old Eddie Brown Jr., remained in his third-floor cell while the mob yelled outside. He is charged with the murder of a white man last week-end.

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 7-12-47

309

Balked Lynch Mob— These three Carroll County (Ga.) officers are credited with saving the life of 22-year-old Eddie Brown from would-be lynchers at Carrolton last week. They locked up the jail, threw away the keys, and threatened death to the mob. It dispersed. Left to right: Russell Lambert, deputy sheriff; Rada Threadgill, chief of police, and Otis King, deputy sheriff. —International News Soundphoto.

Refuse Change Of Venue For Boy, 13

309 Sat. Chicago Defender

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Georgia Court of Appeals Wednesday sustained Superior Judge Harold Hawkins of the Blue Ridge circuit, in denying a change of venue to 13-year-old Charlie Mosley, who was saved from mob violence in Marietta two months ago by the alertness of law officers.

The youth, who is under indictment for an alleged attack attempt upon a 72-year-old Marietta white woman, was spirited to the Fulton Tower in Atlanta last July as a mob combed the Negro section just a few blocks away from the location where officers arrested him.

Defense Attorney Dan Duke, former assistant attorney general and Ku Klux Klan foe, sought a change of venue on grounds there was probability of danger of lynching.

NEGROES THREATEN TO LYNCH NEGRO AFTER ATTACK ON NEGRO GIRL, 9

309

Atlanta Constitution

PERRY, Oct. 19—(UP)—A band of Negro men "would have lynched in no time a Negro accused of criminally assaulting a 9-year-old Negro girl here, Sheriff C. C. Chapman reported Sunday. Atlanta, Ga.

The girl was found Saturday in a swamp, nude, bruised and dazed. Sheriff Chapman and three State Troopers brought her to a hospital here. Mon. 10-20-47

Chapman said James Davis, 30-year-old Negro, of Jacksonville, Fla., was jailed and charged with the crime. When news of the arrest reached the Negro section of Perry, Chapman said 10 to 15 Negro men came to the jail "and begged us to turn him over to them."

The Sheriff added: "If we had, that bunch would have lynched him in no time."

The girl had been sent to take a message to Davis, who worked on a farm adjoining the one on which she lived. When she failed to return the Sheriff was notified and Davis was arrested an hour before the child was found.

The State Patrol said Davis was still in Houston County Jail here Sunday and all was quiet.

MACON TELEGRAPH 309 Ga.

A Negro Mob Was Frustrated

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, Ga.

Professional critics of the South who dwell upon the cruelty and injustice with which we are supposed to treat members of the Negro race must have been embarrassed by the story which recently appeared in the Macon newspapers to the effect that a young Negro girl in Houston County was brutally assaulted and abandoned by a Negro rapist and that when the attacker had been safely lodged in jail, thinks to the vigilance of the county sheriff, a Negro mob assembled and demanded that the prisoner be released to them in order that they might deal with him as they saw fit.

It was obvious that this angry mob would have lynched the prisoner without mercy if the arm of the law, represented by the white race, had not protected him.

Several weeks ago, The Telegraph printed a series of articles showing that nine out of 10 of the murders committed in Bibb County over a period of 10 years were cases in which Negroes had been shot or stabbed to death by members of their own race.

The facts were utterly at variance with the impression conveyed by so-called champions of the Negro race in the North—that the colored people constantly have to be protected from the brutalities of the white race.

The moral we drew at the time in commenting on these facts was that the Negroes must begin to learn self-discipline, which obviously is at a low level when they kill one another nine times more frequently than a Negro is killed by a white person or a white person killed by a Negro.

10-26-47 Sun.

NOW we read of an instance in which a Negro mob clamors for the blood of a Negro rapist whose victim also was a Negro, and the orderly processes of the law were maintained by a white sheriff who had the courage to do his duty.

These facts should be considered by our critics in the North, and in the meantime, we have additional evidence that the Negroes must raise their sense of moral responsibility in their relations with one another.

Screven Mob Forces Police To Move Man

Daily World 309

Atlanta Ga.

Fri. 10-17-47

SYLVANIA, Ga.— (SNS)— A man identified by police as Henry Hudson and described by the officers as a "half-wit" was spirited out of Screven County earlier in the week when a mob formed before the city jail where he had been incarcerated charged of suspicion of rape attempt.

Police Chief, Henry Black said Hudson had been arrested after being traced to his home by bloodhounds.

Hudson had not been identified definitely by the intended victim as her assailant, Police Chief Black said. Fri. 10-17-47

The victim told officers that a man she identified as a Negro had secreted himself under her bed and crawled out as she undressed. The Chief quoted the woman as saying she grappled with the man, finally seized a small rifle and fired, whereupon, the assailant fled. Daily World

About 200 persons assembled at the jail about 1:30 o'clock Sunday morning. Officers removed Hudson from the county to an undisclosed prison. Atlanta

30g 1947

Indiana

7590

Indiana Cop Kills Man After Arrest

Daily Worker

30g

New York N.Y.

OAKLAND CITY, Ind., Sept. 14 (UP).—Lawrence Johnson, 48, night marshal here, was menaced by an angry crowd today after killing a man he had arrested, and was held in a state police barracks at his own request, state officers said.

State Police Lt. Albert R. Stiles said Johnson admitted he shot Robert ("Lefty") Miller, 27, after he was arrested. Man. 9-15-47

Stiles quoted Johnson as saying he arrested Miller and started to take him to jail. He fired three bullets from an automatic into Miller's neck and chest.

The state police, who said they based their version of the shooting on Johnson's account, said 150 persons gathered at the scene of Miller's death and threatened violence to the marshal. man. 9-15-47

He then asked state police protection. State officers said that they learned feeling was still intense against Johnson this morning, and that they would continue to hold him at the Jasper state police post.

7591

Mobsters Had Placed Rope Around Neck

Daily World Sun.

Atlanta, Ga. 2-9-47

Man Charged With Killing Police Chief At Home

2-9-47-Sun.

30g

OSAWATOMIE, Kan.—(NNPA) A middle-aged man who had shot and killed Chief of Police Mike Churchill, was dragged by officers last Monday from an infuriated mob, members of which already had thrown a rope around his neck and started to lynch him. The man, George Miller, was secreted by sheriff's deputies as mob feeling reached a peak. Daily World

Miller escaped death narrowly, not only by hanging but when the 200-man posse trapped him in a garage loft and fired round after round of shotgun and pistol fire into the building before the fugitive came out, his hands in the air.

Wife Complaint

Sun. 2-9-47

The police chief was felled with a shotgun blast in the chest when he went to the Miller home to serve a warrant on the man, who is a railroad section hand. The warrant was issued on the complaint of Miller's wife who charged her husband beat her last Sunday night in an argument over money.

Within a few hours, a mob had formed, including farmers and townspeople from neighboring counties, and sheriff's deputies and State highway patrolmen started the search. They were led to the garage loft by a 3-year-old child who had seen Miller enter.

Police Judge A. J. Walthall said that several of the younger men had thrown a rope around Miller and were dragging him away when officers intervened. Atlanta, Ga.

'Osawatomie Brown'

(30g) Kans.

The News and Courier Charleston, S. C.

2-5-47

"John Brown's body lies amouldering in the grave." John Brown, a brave soul, and over-enthusiastic for the abolition of negro slavery, who made war with 22 men on the United States at Harper's Ferry and thought slaveholders none too good for lynching, in 1859, and was hanged on that account, lived at Osawatomie, in Kansas. In the dispatches yesterday was told that a middle-aged negro man who had killed a policeman was set upon by a mob. A rope was thrown about him. The negro was "dragged by officers" from the "infuriated mob" and by the sheriff was hidden. The "cooler heads" saved the negro's life. It is to be hoped that always negroes will be saved from mobs and, when accused of crime, be tried by courts of law —whether in Kansas or in South Carolina. "John Brown's body lies amouldering—." Is "his soul marching on"? Wed. 2-5-47

30g 1947

Kentucky

7592

Lynching reported averted in Kentucky

Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 8-30-47

30g

PRINCETON, Ky. — Lynching of Charles Hickman, World War II veteran, for the alleged attempted rape of a 31-year-old white woman, was averted here last week when Hickman was spirited away from the local jail by police just as the mob was forming.

Mrs. Chappell Cooper, who said Hickman attacked her as she turned to get the drink of water he had asked her for, was rescued by a Negro passerby, who heard her screams, police said. They caught Hickman in a nearby cornfield, to which he had fled.

Tribune, Sat. 8-30-47

30g 1947 Louisiana

7593

White Farmer Wanted His Wife, Farm Hand Flees Mob

(30g) La.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

NEW ORLEANS — Wiley L. Hokey, 25, of Windy Hill (Miss.) who resented his white employer's attention toward his wife, arrived here last Friday penniless and with one suit of clothes after eluding police officers for six days while fleeing for his life. Sat. 3-22-47

The tragic story of what happened in Windy Hill, a little back woods town ten miles from Jackson, the State capital, and how another possible Monroe (Ga.) massacre was averted, was told by Mr. Hokev to the Louisiana Weekly.

He said that after serving two years overseas, he returned to Windy Hill upon his discharge in 1946 where Miss Rosie L. Alexander was waiting to marry him. They were married there and remained to wok. Sat. 2-25-47

Took Farm Job

He obtained a job at the farm of Cyrus D. Davis, a wealthy landowner, eight months ago, his wife being employed as a housemaid. They made good, saved some money, and had planned to leave the community.

One day recently, when his wife was preparing to shop in town, their employer offered to give her a ride in his car to which he consented, since he suspected nothing.

On her return, she brought back quite a supply of clothes. He asked his wife where she secured the money for such extravagant purchases, an argument followed and she confessed that they were bought by their employer.

When the husband told his employer he resented such attention toward his wife, he said he meant no harm but was only trying to be nice.

Another day while coming out of the field, Mr. Hokey said he saw his employer trying to kiss his wife. When he spoke to him about it before going home, the employer told him "to go to hell."

Another argument followed with his wife and he slapped her. He was arrested by the police that night, kept in jail three days, and told to leave Mississippi "or else." He made his way to Jackson where he was followed by officers.

30g La.

7594

Sex Slayer Is Rushed To Safety As Girl's Kin Try To Attack Him

Birmingham News

File 3-4-47

30g

Parents Tell Of Protest To Parole; They Weep As Charges Are Filed

Birmingham, Ala

MALDEN, Mass., March 4—(AP)—Police said five officers were required to protect Robert L. Coombes, 17, charged with murdering 11-year-old Jacqueline Maxwell, from infuriated relatives of the little girl as he was led from the courthouse today after pleading innocent.

The relatives, police said, tried to strike, claw and spit upon the prisoner as he was led to a police car for transfer to Cambridge Jail. Coombes had just been held without bail.

Specifically, the youth was accused of assaulting and beating the girl with intent to commit rape, and with killing her.

At the request of Police Chief Joseph B. Henry, the case was continued until March 18 after Henry told Judge Maurice P. Flynn he intended in the meantime to present the case to the Grand Jury.

Coombes appeared unmoved throughout the proceedings, which were witnessed by his mother and by numerous relatives of the little victim. 3-4-47

Coombes' parents weeped today as they told of opposing his recent release from a reform school.

"Institutions shouldn't release boys like this," said the boy's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Coombes, who turned him over to police when she became suspicious after learning of the slaying Sunday night.

She told newsmen and police her son's clothes were covered with mud and that he refused to explain where he had been.

"It wasn't because I don't love my son that we turned him in," said the mother, and her husband added:

"If I were a parent of that girl I'd want to kill him. We did a lot of thinking." 3-4-47

Meanwhile, concern was expressed about the disappearance of Corrine Ann Catlin, 17-year-old Malden High School senior and Sunday School teacher. She dropped from sight while returning from church Sunday night — about the same time the Maxwell girl was slain.

30g Birmingham

Coombes was released from Shirley (Reform) School on Feb. 8 after serving a year's sentence for assault with a knife while attempting to rob. File 3-4-47

He had served two previous sentences for sex offenses—the first when he was 13 years old on a charge of assault to commit rape on a 10-year-old girl; the second a year after his release for indecent assault on a 7-year-old girl.

Police said the youth "admitted everything" in an oral statement after accompanying officers to a field where the little victim's body was found crudely half-hidden beneath rotted boards.

The girl had been missing since she attended a motion picture show Sunday with a 14-year-old sister.

Medical Examiner David C. Dow reported after an autopsy that she died of "asphyxia, suffocation and strangulation-homicide."

Courtroom Incident Sends Negro To New Jail

30g

Birmingham Ala

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 18—(AP)—A 19-year-old Negro was lodged in the Hinds County Jail Saturday for safekeeping after being brought here from Clarksdale, Miss., where he was on trial on a charge of raping a white woman.

Dist. Atty. John Crisler at Clarksdale said a "little incident" in the courtroom yesterday was responsible for the move. He declined to give full details, but did say that the husband of the woman got a little excited while jurors were being selected." Sat 1-18-47

The Negro, Rufus Willis, is charged with raping a woman of Hillhouse, Miss., after she had been stopped in her car at gun-point.

Mississippi Law Officers Avert Lynching

The Informer

Houston, Texas

30g

Columbus, Miss. — Prompt action by law officers here prevented a lynching last Thursday when Jesse Lee Dickerson, 21-year-old Negro accused of the robbery and slaying of Howard Wallace, 22-year-old white taxicab driver, was spirited away to an undisclosed jail elsewhere. The body of Wallace, a recently discharged veteran, was found about six miles from here lying on the side of the road. Bullet wounds were in the head and neck. Sat. 4-26-47

Officers said Dickerson, having attracted attention shortly after crossing the state line into Hornsby, Tennessee, by attempting to purchase gasoline for an automobile with a Filipino twenty dollar bill, had been taken into custody when officers saw the seat of the car was bloody.

Lynch threats made against hit-run drivers

Los Angeles Tribune

Sat. 6-21-47

30g

Los Angeles, Calif.

GRENADA, Miss. — Two Negroes, held in connection with the death of two whites in an automobile accident, have been moved to an unnamed jail for safekeeping after lynch threats were heard from this town's whites. Sat. 6-21-47

The Negroes, Jack Robinson and W. O. Farmer, allegedly were driver and passenger, respectively, of a car which went through a red light, leaving the two whites dead in its wake. Both Negroes, the police claim, were drunk.

Preliminary hearing in the case has been postponed to allow the lynch fever to subside.

Save Autoists From Mob As Car Kills Two

Chicago, Ill

Defender

Sat. 6-7-47

GRENADA, Miss.—Two Negro occupants of an automobile which instantly killed two elderly white men Sunday night were spirited out of town several hours later when threatened mob violence developed.

30g

James Robinson, of Grenada, and W. D. Farmer of Summit, were removed from the Grenada jail on Sunday night to confinement in the jail of an unannounced town when rumblings of a lynching were heard. Sat. 6-7-47

The car in which they were riding struck and killed W. B. Hoffa, 80, civic leader and extensive landowner and Clark Gentry, 71, merchant, both of this town, as the two white men walked along Highway 51, within the city limits.

Robinson was driver of the car. It was being pursued by Spencer Davis, (white) Grenada policeman, for running a stop light a few moments before when the accident occurred, local police said.

Davis said that Robinson sideswiped another car and then hit the two men as they walked along the shoulder of the road.

Hoffa served as a colonel of the staff of former Gov. Hugh White, and was a prominent member of the Grenada Masonic lodge, Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce.

Mob Tries To Lynch Wrong Person, Leaves Him Badly Wounded

News

Birmingham, Ala.

Tue. 10-28-47

30g

Mississippi Officer Says Victim Apparently Not Assailant Of Woman

ABERDEEN, Miss., Oct. 28—(AP)—Police Chief John Barret reported today that "a mob of about 20 white men' 'tried to lynch a Negro Sunday night, but succeeded only in wounding him.

Barret said the Negro apparently is the "wrong man." He apparently had nothing to do with an attempted attack upon a white woman, he said.

"There is no evidence to show that he attempted to attack a white woman on the streets here, which was the reason the mob took him out," Barret said. Tue.

"They took him out and handled him Sunday night and left him wounded. They thought they had killed him, I believe. He's in a hospital here. I think he will recover."

Barret gave this account:

A 54-year-old white woman told police a Negro attempted to rape her Saturday night. He walked up behind her and put his hand over her mouth. Another Negro was a short distance away, but took no part in the incident. 10-28-47

She wrangled free and screamed. The Negro who had grabbed her fled. Her mouth was lacerated in the tussle.

Bloodhounds brought from the State Penitentiary at Parchman smelled a hat found at the scene and led a posse to theh ome of John Lloyd, 43, Negro farm worker.

But the dogs did not point specifically to the Negro, and took "no interest in him."

Lloyd was taken to the police station and questioned by Barret. A second test with the bloodhounds led to his home but not to him. He was released because of "lack of evidence."

After Lloyd had done his milking chores Sunday night, he was taken out by a group of white men, beaten and shot twice—once in the spine and once in the arm.

"My investigation shows the Negro was not at the scene at the time of the attempted attack," Barret related.

WRONG MAN IS BELIEVED SHOT BY STATE MOB

Mc Comb Enter-prise Journal

Aberdeen, Miss., Negro Likely To Recover; Police Head Says Group Made Mistake

By The Associated Press

30g

Aberdeen, Miss.—Police Chief John Barret of Aberdeen said today that a mob shot and seriously wounded a Negro suspected of attacking a white woman. The police chief said he believed the mob seized the wrong man. The officer declared his investigation showed the wounded Negro was not at the scene of the reported attack. 10-28-47

The mob was composed of about 30 white men, Barret said.

Here is the story told by the chief of police:

A 54-year-old white woman reported that a Negro seized her while she was walking on the street, but fled as she screamed and wrestled free. Bloodhounds smelled a hat at the scene and led a posse to the home of John Lloyd, 43-year-old Negro farm worker. 10-28-47

The dogs, however, did not point to Lloyd himself and took no interest in him.

Lloyd was questioned at the police station but released for lack of evidence. A group of about 30 men gathered outside the jail during the questioning but did not threaten the police chief or attempt to make him release the Negro.

Sometime after Lloyd had been released and had returned to his farm work, he was seized by a mob and shot twice, once in the spine and once in the arm. Barret said the mob probably thought he was dead. Lloyd is in a hospital at Aberdeen and the police chief said he thinks he will recover. Mc Comb Enterprise Journal

The officer said, "My investigation shows the Negro was not at the scene at the time of the attempted attack. He cannot identify any of the mob who shot him. Everything here is quiet It has all blown over."

Mob Lynches The Wrong Man

Informer Houston, Tex.

30g 11-1-47 Sat

John Lloyd, 43, of Aberdeen, Miss. was shot ~~to death~~ by approximately 30 white men for the alleged rape of a white woman Saturday night. White citizens have condemned the action of the mob, in lynching the wrong man, and an investigation is now going on. Houston Tex Informer

7596

Rape Suspect Left For Dead By Mob In Mississippi

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

30a(1)

Web. 10-29-47

ABERDEEN, Miss.— (SNS)— A frenzied blood-thirsty mob of approximately 30 white men unmoved by a decision of law officers, took the law into their own hands Sunday when they seized a Negro rape suspect after his release from police custody and almost lynched him, police disclosed.

Web 10-29-47

The wounded and brutally beaten victim, John Lloyd, 43-year-old farm worker, suspected of attacking a white woman, was seized by the irate mobsters upon his release by the police authorities who were convinced that he was innocent of the alleged crime. Daily World

The would-be lynchers bludgeoned him unmercifully and climaxed their sadistic ordeal by pumping two .38 calibre slugs into his mutilated body and left him for dead. Atlanta, Ga.

Shortly after the attack, police came upon the hapless victim and rushed him to Aberdeen hospital where it was disclosed he had a chance to live. One of the slugs had pierced his chest and lodged in a vertebra.

Currently Police Chief John Barrett is said to be taking charge of a thorough probing into the alleged assault and the attempted lynching of Lloyd.

Patton Spirited Away for Retrial

30a

Precaution Taken After Supreme Court Decision

JACKSON, Miss. (ANP) — Eddie (Buster) Patton, convicted murderer of Jim Meadows, Meridian white man, last February, was brought to county pail here last week from Lauderdale county for safekeeping, to await retrial next February.

Afro-American

According to Lauderdale County Jailer M. L. Gray, the move was necessary to insure the prisoner's safety from irate townspeople who had learned that the U.S. Supreme court reversed the state court's decision sustaining the man's conviction.

Baltimore, Md.

Patton was tried in the Lauderdale County Circuit Court. His appeal to the Supreme Court contended that Negroes were systematically excluded from jury service. The U.S. high court concurred in this view and ordered re-trial. Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

However, County Attorney W. L. Clayton said that there is only a slight chance that colored persons will be accepted for jury duty, though they will be called.

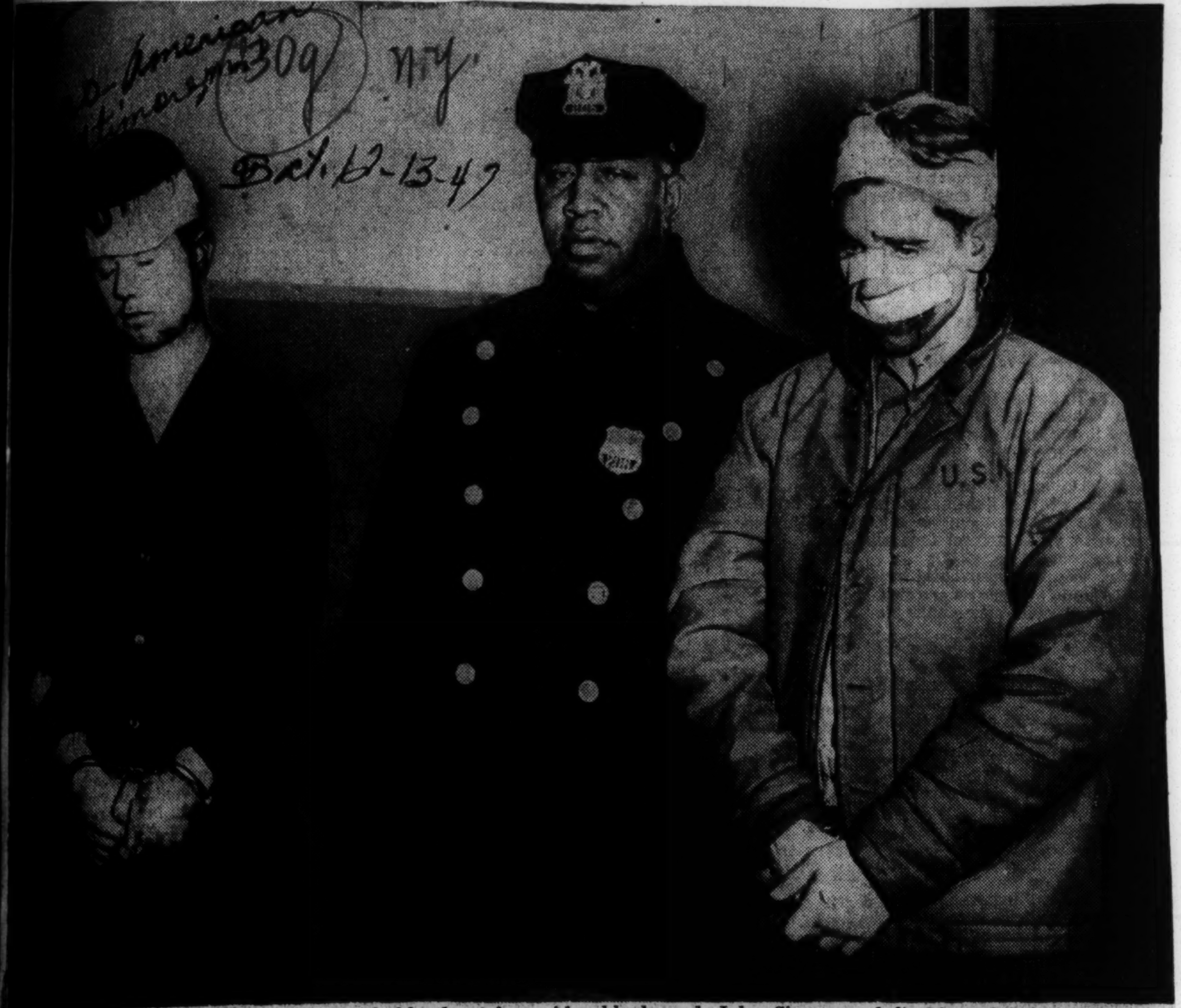
The qualifications for jury duty are that they be male, qualified electors, paid poll tax for the past two years, have no convictions for liquor selling in five years, or any "infamous" crime.

He said that one or more of these might disqualify most in the county. Those not disqualified probably be removed through the 12 peremptory challenges allowed the State.

30g 1947

New York

7597



o-American
timore, Md.

30g

N.Y.

Balt. 12-13-47

E ROLE IS REVERSED—Their heads bloody and considerably bowed, John Simmons, left, 26, and John O'Hara, 19, oth of NYC, are shown in Yonkers, N.Y., with Officer Thomas Brooks after he had saved them from being lynched. An ngry crowd attempted to get the pair after they had killed a fireman and wounded an off-duty patrolman in an attempt- d holdup. Many youths in Dixie were not so fortunate as Simmons and O'Hara when the mob came. In fact many po- ice officers down there have been known to join in the lynching party.

30g 1947

North Carolina

7598

9

Rape-Attempt Suspect Who Fled Mob Gives Up

[illegible] 309

By the Associated Press.

Raleigh, N. C., May 25.—Godwin "Buddy" Bush, 24-year-old Negro who made good his escape from a lunch mob at Jackson last Friday morning was lodged in Central Prison here tonight after he had given himself up.

Bush was brought to the prison for safekeeping by Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler of Roxobel and two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Tyler said that a Negro preacher called him this afternoon and told him that Bush would surrender if the solicitor would guarantee that he would not be harmed. Tyler said that he and the F.B.I. agents went to the appointed place and found the Negro. Mon. 5-26-47

Shot Fired In Escape.

Bush told the solicitor that he managed to get away from the armed men immediately after he had been removed from the jail and that a shot was fired at him during the escape.

The solicitor would give no further details of the escape or of his interview with Bush, saying, "We're trying to find those people who got him out of there."

Tyler said that Bush would be charged with assault with intent to rape a young married white woman at Rich Square.

Bush had been accused of attempting to rape Mrs. Margaret Allen Bryant, a stenographer, Thursday night in Rich Square. High school boys heard Mrs. Bryant scream and chased a Negro. Bush was later arrested and taken to the Jackson Jail.

Late By 5 Minutes.

Solicitor Tyler attempted to have Bush removed from the jail for safekeeping in view of racial tension existing in Northampton County where two of every three persons is a Negro.

Tyler said he was delayed in reaching Sheriff J. C. Stephenson or Jailer E. W. Edwards by telephone and when he finally reached Edwards he learned that Bush had been seized only 5 minutes before. 5-26-47

The masked white men went to the door of the jail about 2 a.m. Friday. They demanded Bush, and Edwards said, since they were armed and he wasn't there was nothing he could do except surrender the young prisoner. 309 N.C.

Tonight upon learning that the [illegible] Bush, Governor R. Gregg Cherry said: "I am glad the boy is still alive. . . . I still think that those who took him should be ferreted out and brought to justice."

Police Chief Frank Outland said that when he arrested Bush Thursday night the Negro admitted being at the scene of the alleged assault attempt but denied that he had had anything to do with it. "I was waiting for my girl," Tyler said Bush told him.

The last lynching in North Carolina—the state has had 99—occurred July 30, 1935, at Louisburg, near Raleigh. In 1942 a mob attempted to lynch a Negro prisoner at Roxboro, but was broken up by County and State officers. Several white men were arrested and convicted of unlawful assembly. Mon. 5-26-47

309

Rally to Protest Lynch Verdict

The Negro National Day Committee, sponsor of the "Stars of the World" pageant to be staged in Madison Square Garden next Tuesday night, announced yesterday that the program would be turned into a rally protesting the acquittal of the twenty-eight lynch-trial defendants in Greenville, S. C. The committee announced that Mrs. Tessie Earle mother of the victim of the lynching, would be the principal speaker.

Sat. 5-24-47

New York, N.Y.

FBI Questions Missing N. C. Negro

News and Courier

309

Charleston, S.C.

WASHINGTON, May 25. (U.P.): The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced tonight that it has taken into custody Godwin Bush, the missing North Carolina negro who was taken from his Jackson, N. C., cell last week by a mob.

It had been feared that the 25-year-old Bush had been killed. The young negro was taken from his cell last Friday after his arrest for an alleged attack on a white woman. 5-26-47 Mon.

The FBI said that Bush was now being questioned by FBI agents and by the county solicitor of Northampton county, N. C., to see if any of his civil rights have been violated. Mon. 5-26-47

Band Takes North Carolina Negro; Sheriff Fears Another Lynching

Times

309 New York, N.Y.

By The Associated Press

JACKSON, N. C., May 23—A band of masked white men took a young Negro prisoner from the Northampton County jail here at gunpoint before dawn today and Sheriff A. C. Stephenson said: "I am afraid that a lynching has taken place."

Sheriff's deputies scoured the Roanoke River area west of here in search of the Negro, 24-year-old Godwin (Buddy) Bush, this afternoon, but reported no success. Bush was arrested last night in Rich Square, a small community twelve miles away, and charged with attempted rape of a white woman. Officers brought him to jail here, since Rich Square has no lockup.

Jailor E. W. Edwards said he locked up his prisoners at 9 o'clock and went to bed.

"I heard a knock on the door and I answered it," he stated. "A half-dozen masked men, all armed with guns, met me. They went through the jail and took this nigger. They told me that was their price."

The young white woman reportedly was enroute to a movie when she was chased by the Negro. High-school boys, hearing her screams, went to her aid. The boys said they recognized Bush after his capture sometime later by Patrolman Frank Outland at Rich Square.

Gov. R. Gregg Cherry, in Raleigh, ordered State Bureau of Investigation agents and highway patrolmen to the area.

"I will not condone lynchings or play of this kind as long as I am Governor," he said.

Sat. 5-24-47

New Incident Causes Shock

Special to The New York Times.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 23—Word that a half-dozen white men had seized a Negro from the jail [illegible] in Jackson, N. C., 400 miles [illegible] ust twenty-eight hours after [illegible] e jury here had acquitted [illegible] y-eight white men on lynch [illegible] er charges came as a shock to this community.

The report came while citizens here were reading editorial comment from all over the country condemning the Greenville jury's verdict and occasionally remarking that the vigorously prosecuted trial here would have the effect of reducing possible future lynchings in this region.

Times

The acquittal of the lynch mob here was still the most popular topic of conversation on street corners and in restaurants and offices today when word of the incident in its neighboring state was received. New York, N.Y.

The general reaction in the conversations of many here was to blame the new crime on the decision of the Greenville jury last Wednesday night. The feeling here was that the acquittal of the local lynchers had convinced many Southerners that punishment would not be meted out even though prosecutions were conducted with a vigor new to the South's traditions.

In Charlotte, N. C., 109 miles from here, excitement ran high and people on streets and in offices were discussing the new incident all day.

The first reaction was similar to that which had marked the investigation into the Greenville lynching case last Feb. 17. Like the Greenville newspapers, the Charlotte News, headed by Tom Robinson and Harry Ashmore, widely-known in the South as liberals, gave over their front pages to the story of the jail delivery.

Governor Of Carolina Pledges Action On Mob

Advertiser

309

RALEIGH, N. C., May 26.—(AP)—Godwin "Buddy" Bush, a Negro sawmill worker who broke away from a white lynch mob and bolted into hiding in a pine thicket before dawn last Friday, lay safely in a prison cell here tonight and Gov. R. Gregg Cherry said: "I believe the perpetrators of this awful incident at Jackson (N. C.) will be apprehended."

Bush, charged with attempting to attack a pretty, blonde Rich Square stenographer last Thursday night, was removed at gunpoint from the Northampton County jail by the armed, masked mob. Montgomery, Ala.

Asked if the alleged abductors of the Negro could be held under state law on charges of mob violence, the governor said:

"Certainly. We have laws to cover such action." Tues. 5-27-47

Tension Soars After Arrest of Dixie Mob

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

309 Sat. 6-7-47

By A. M. RIVERA Jr.

JACKSON, N. C. — Racial tension continues high in this little farm village—the FBI has admitted that it has no Federal jurisdiction in the Godwin (Buddy) Bush lynching attempt . . . Joe L. Cunningham, the white confessor who "broke down" to the FBI, has been spirited out of town . . . newsmen have been ordered to get out of town and stay out . . . and seven alleged mobsters see freedom in sight for themselves on Aug. 4, when they are to be tried.

Racial tension soared to riotous proportions last week, as local citizens, openly resentful of "outside interference," made Joe Cunningham, who confessed to FBI agents implicating seven other white men, some of prominent status here, leave town.

Indicative of the temper of white citizens was the fact that Police Chief Frank Outland himself, made the remark that five million dollars could be raised, if necessary, to defend the accused men who "represent some of our best people." Likewise, Superintendent of Schools N. L. Turner left the graduating exercises of his high school, to go to the jail and post bond for one of the accused. Sat. 6-7-47

Mayor Charles E. Meyers of Rich Square personally led the bond-posting done by fifteen men.

Meanwhile, as Negro families continued to send their children to other towns, there was little lessening of the tenseness of the situation. Newsmen were warned that if they remained here their cars would be turned over and demolished, and they might come to bodily harm.

309 N.C.

But, the announcement made from Washington by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, said: "Facts developed by the FBI in solving the case have been reviewed by the Department of Justice and Assistant Attorney General Lamar Caudle has determined that no violation of Federal law is involved."

DISHEARTENED

Local Negroes are thoroughly disheartened by the turn of events, and openly state that they expect no punishment for the eight men accused of seizing Bush, only to have him elude their clutches in a breath-taking escape, amid gunfire. The feeling prevails that local authorities will put no pressure behind a move to secure convictions, though the kidnapping charge carries a penalty of life imprisonment.

Meanwhile, there is considered little likelihood that Bush can be convicted on the attempted rape charge which brought about his arrest. One wire service reporter filed a story stating that the State had no case against Bush. Thus, the entire matter seems destined to turn into a fiasco.

Just as in the case of the Willie Earle lynching, and the subsequent actions of the Greenville (S. C.) jury trying the accused defendants, there is little hope that Bush's kidnappers can be convicted. Sat. 6-7-47

In a recapitulation, The Courier found that out of forty-eight arrests in lynching cases, not one single conviction has been returned. There have been two such slayings in North Carolina since V-J Day.

J. C. Farmer, a veteran, was shot at Bailey, N. C., last August, and Dan C. Sanders was shot in Johnson County, near Smithfield, on Nov. 18, 1946, without apprehensions, arrests or convictions in either case.

The only ray of hope which shone into the lives of Negroes in the South was found in the Washington announcement that Senators Robert M. Wagner (D., N. Y.)

Near-Lynch Victim Gives Courier Exclusive Story

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Sat. 6-7-47

30g

By A. M. RIVERA Jr., Staff Correspondent

RALEIGH, N. C.—"God musta had his arms around me," Godwin Bush began as he told The Courier in an exclusive interview how he escaped a mob of armed and masked would-be lynchers who took him from the North Hampton County jail in the pre-dawn hours last week.

Led from his cell in Central Prison where he is being held for "safe keeping" until his trial, Bush was told that someone wanted to see him. He was barefoot and his well-built frame was clothed in the usual prison garb of blue denim. We introduced ourselves and he responded with a broad boyish smile which accented his twenty-two years.

Wringing his maimed hands, the left is minus two fingers, and the right is grotesquely disfigured as a result of a shotgun blast which he received when he was 14, Bush began to recount the events which are now recorded as one of the strangest cases on record.

HAD A "DATE"

"I had a date to meet Lola Gatlin, we were supposed to go to the show," he said.

"Is she your girl friend?" I interrupted.

"No, she's not exactly what you'd call a girl friend, but I had a date to take her to the show. I was supposed to meet her at the building where her sister works. You see, her mother and father are dead and she had to get permission from her sister who is raising her," he explained.

"While I was waiting on her by the building, I sorta squatted down and began to play with some rocks on the sidewalk. Three white boys came by going toward town, they didn't stop or say nothing, then a white woman, coming from the direction of town, got within fifteen feet of me and when I stood up to let her pass, she screamed, 'don't', and turned around and ran." Sat. 6-7-47

I told Bush that the reports were that he lunged at her. "No sir," he denied, "I merely stood up to let her by and she got frightened and ran. I got scared then and walked away in the opposite direction."

Bush said he then went to a show where he remained through half of the feature before coming out to look for his date whom he found in the jim crow section of a cafe next to the theatre. During a conversation with her, Police Chief Frank Outland [illegible]ested him on the identification of the three white Rich Square youths.

Mrs. Dorothy Allen Bryant, reported victim of the alleged rape attempt, could not identify him when he was placed in front of the police car's headlights.

Amid his persistent denials of any intention to rape Mrs. Allen, Bush was taken from Rich Square to Jackson, N. C., and placed in the lockup.

"It was about 10:30 when they locked me up and at first I couldn't sleep. Just when I began to get sleepy, the jailer, (A. W. Edwards) came to the cell to bring in some more prisoners. This must've been about 1 A. M. I dozed off then and the next thing I knew some masked men were pointing pistols at me saying, 'All right n — — r, get your clothes on and let's get going'."

THOUGHT JAILER "SCARED"

We asked what the jailer was doing when all this was going on. Bush said, "I think he was scared'er than I was."

He continued the story of his harrowing experiences. "As we left the jail one man had me by the arm and another with a gun in my back said, 'Don't run n — — r, w'll give you time to run'," he recounted.

As he entered the jail yard, two waiting members of the mob and one of the men escorting him got on the front seat of the car. "I was put in the back on the door side to the street. One of the men told me to get in the middle." In sheer desperation Bush, in making the shift, hit the handle of the car door and fell out on the ground.

"When I came up, I came up running. I was running so fast that I stumbled and fell, and just as I fell I heard a shot whiz over my head. The next time I started running, I never looked back," Bush said with a self-satisfying smile. Sat. 6-7-47

The rest of the story has been widely published, except perhaps, the role Bush played in the capture of his adbuctors, all of whom have been arrested and released on $2,500 bonds.

IMPLICATES SIX OTHERS

"I recognized one of the men by his voice and his car, it was the one they put me in. It was a 1936 model driven by the man who takes tickets at the Negro window of the theatre." Though Bush did not know him by name, he was identified in the listing of those arrested as Joe L. Cunningham, theatre employee.

30g

His confession implicated six others identified as: Robert Vann, pickle plant employe; W. C. Cooper, hot dog stand operator; Russell N. Bryant, filling station operator; Glen W. Collier, barter; Linwood and Gilbert Bryant, brothers, carpenters. N. C.

The men all waived preliminary hearings and posted bond immediately. The list of fifteen bondsmen was headed by Mayor Charles E. Myers, of Rich Square.

Chief Outland is quoted as saying, "They could raise five million dollars if they needed it. They're some of our best people."

The alleged mobsters are charged with kidnapping, conspiracy, and breaking and entering jail with intent to kill.

Herman L. Taylor, Raleigh attorney, has been retained by the NAACP to defend Bush. Taylor told this reporter, that if necessary, they would take this case to the United States Supreme Court.

Man Who Joined Posse Arrested

Daily World 11-20-47

Atlanta, Ga.

30g

DANBURY, N. C.—(ANP)—Harry L. Davis, who coolly joined an armed posse combing the hills to arrest the alleged rapist of a seven year old white girl Armistice day, was jailed the same evening and spirited away for safekeeping as the supposed assailant.

Deputies said Davis fell in with them and trudged over the hills for three hours before dropping out and going to sleep at home. He was arrested when a neighbor recalled seeing him in the area where the girl was attacked.

Masked Men Seize Negro: Sheriff Afraid He's Lynched

Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala.

30g

JACKSON, N. C., May 23.—(AP)—A young Negro prisoner was taken at gunpoint from Northampton County jail in the pre-dawn darkness today by a band of masked, white men and Sheriff A. C. Stephenson said "I am afraid that a lynching has taken place." Sat 5-24-47

Sheriff's deputies searched the Roanoke River area west of here in search of the Negro, 24-year-old Godwin (Buddy) Bush, but reported no success.

He was arrested last night in Rich Square, a small community, 12 miles away and charged with attempted criminal attack of a white woman, identified as a stenographer at Rich Square.

Lieut. Lester Jones, of the highway patrol said he expected "plenty of trouble tonight among the races" in connection with the possible lynching, which would be this county's first since 1902, when a Negro, Jeter Mitchell was slain for an alleged criminal attack.

Northampton is a largely agricultural county of about 30,000 persons with a race ratio of approximately two Negroes to each white. 30g Advertiser

Jailor E. W. Edwards said he locked up his prisoners at 9 o'clock and went to bed. "I heard a knock on the door and I answered it. A half dozen masked men, all armed with guns, met me. They went through the jail and took this nigger. They told me that was their price." He said.

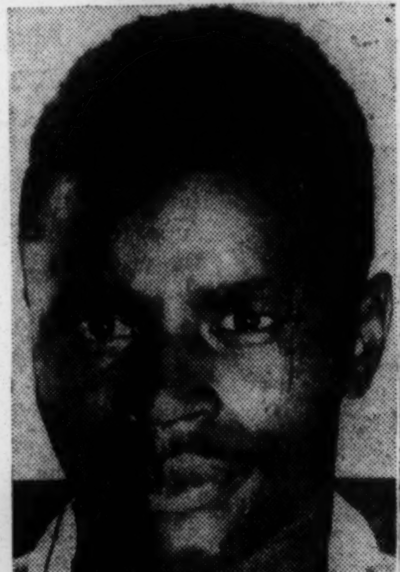
The young woman reportedly was en route to a movie when she was chased by a Negro. High school boys, hearing her screams, went to her aid. The boys said they recognized Bush after his capture sometime later by Patrolman Frank Outland at Rich Square. Sat 5-24-47

Case Sees Need For Anti-Lynch Bill

Advertiser

WASHINGTON, May 23.—(AP)—Representative Clifford P. Case (R), New Jersey, author of an anti-lynching bill now before Congress said today the Greenville, S. C., mass lynching trial "seems to indicate the necessity for such legislation."

Case said a section of his bill providing civil damages of $2,000 to $10,000 for the victim of a lynching or his survivors "would in itself be a deterrent against such crimes and alleviate part of the hardships caused by lynchings."



Associated Press Wirephoto.

GODWIN 'BUDDY' BUSH

Escaped from lynch mob.

U. S. Takes Hand In Effort to Catch 5 Would-Be Lynchers of Negro

Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

30g

Governor Says Capture Expected

June 2 7 '47

From Wire Dispatches.

Raleigh, N. C., May 26.—Godwin "Buddy" Bush, a Negro sawmill worker who broke away from a white lynch mob and bolted into hiding in a pine thicket before dawn last Friday, lay safely in a prison cell here tonight and Governor R. Gregg Cherry said, "I believe the perpetrators of this awful incident at Jackson (N.C.) will be apprehended."

The Governor made his statement after consulting by telephone with Assistant U. S. Attorney General Lamar Caudle in Washington.

Bush, charged with attempting to rape a pretty, blond Rich Square stenographer last Thursday night, was removed at gunpoint from the Northampton County Jail by the armed, masked mob.

Says Law Covers Such Action.

Asked if the alleged abductors of the Negro could be held under State law on charges of mob violence, the Governor said:

"Certainly. We have laws to cover such action."

Later tonight Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler said that if the mom members were caught they would be prosecuted under a kidnaping statute which carries a mandatory punishment of life imprisonment in North Carolina.

The 24-year-old Negro recognized at least two of his would-be lynchers, it was reported unofficially today.

Quick action by officers in two other Carolina towns averted possible mob action against Negroes charged with raping white women. Only 6 hours after Bush was brought here, Dillard Simmons was rushed to the prison for safekeeping. He was arrested early today at Clinton, N. C., on charges of raping a 45-year-old white woman, Mrs. May Wise.

Escape Is Recounted.

In South Carolina, where 28 members of a self-confessed lynch mob were acquitted last week, Willie Pooler, 24, was taken to the State Penitentiary at Columbia for safekeeping after a crowd began to form around the jail at Darlington. Police said Poole confessed raping a 67-year-old white woman.

Publisher Roy Johnson of The Murfreesboro Herald-News said Bush's father, Alfred Bush, told him the youth gave this account of his escape: Louisville Ky.

Two masked men took him from the cell to an automobile waiting outside the jail with the motor running. Three other masked men were in the front seat.

The Negro was placed in the back on the outside of the two men. One said, "Let him sit in the middle," and in the transfer Bush pushed open the door and ran for his life.

30g 1947 North Carolina

7599

Aged Man Safe as Mob Organizes

The Pittsburgh Courier

30g Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 7-26-47

WINDSOR, N. C.—An unnamed, middle-aged suspect was arrested late Friday night and rushed to an undisclosed jail because of a rising tension over an alleged attack on a 55-year-old woman.

Declaring that feeling was "pretty high for a while," Sheriff Harry Smith declared that the suspect was safe in jail "outside the county."

Local Pressure

30g N.C.

Courier

Negro Lawyer Eased Out of Bush Mob Case

Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 6-21-47
-47

By A. M. RIVERA, JR.
(Courier Staff Correspondent)

RICH SQUARE, N. C. — Apparently succumbing to local pressure, Godwin Bush, whose sensational escape from a lynch mob attracted national attention recently, has released Herman L. Taylor, NAACP counsel, and engaged a white lawyer in this city to defend him. Bush's startling decision came as a complete surprise to Taylor who learned of it through daily newspapers. Sat. 6-21-47

Bush recently left the State Penitentiary under heavy guard to attend the funeral of his 66-year-old father who was stricken with a heart attack while working on a farm last week. The accused had previously declared that he did not want any white man in Rich Square to defend him.

Taylor, who holds a signed power of attorney from Bush, was not permitted to talk to the prisoner at the State prison. The prison warden claimed to be acting at the direction of Solicitor E. R. Taylor. Mr. Taylor was told that two Negroes, one of whom was a preacher, and Atty. V. D. Strickland, white of Rich Square, visited Bush and obtained a signed power of attorney from him. Sat. 6-21-47

Bush has been released on a bond of $2,500. Members of the mob which kidnapped him and attempted to lynch him are free on $1,500 bonds. Speculation is that Bush will be accused of 'frightening' the white woman, and convicted.

Aged Man Safe as Mob Organizes

Pittsburgh Courier Pittsburgh Pa
Sat 7-26-47
30g

WINDSOR, N. C.—An unnamed, middle-aged suspect was arrested late Friday night and rushed to an undisclosed jail because of a rising tension over an alleged attack on a 55-year-old woman.

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30 g 1947 North Carolina

7600

So Deep the Roots

30g New Republic

Civil Liberties

THE headline from the Carolinas, like a hot breeze fading at nightfall, flamed, fluttered, then subsided. Few Americans, in this year of troubled peace, found time to track every such story to its final breath. Yet the unnoticed, silent end was often the most significant feature of dramas like the acquittal of South Carolina's lynchers or the escape of a young Negro from North Carolina's masked mob.

New York, N.Y.

Outrage over these events was already exhausting itself last week against the soft cushion of time. The US Department of Justice, following Attorney General Tom Clark's forthright promise to restudy the South Carolina case, wrestled with an aggravating flimsiness in federal statutes pertinent to lynch law (the *NR,* June 2). Tessie Earle, mother of Greenville's Negro victim, said she would bring civil suits for $250,000 damages against the 28 freed defendants and another suit for $250,000 against the city of Greenville for neglecting to safeguard her jailed son. The rueful comment of one Justice Department official: "When people don't have the money to pay such suits, no money is collected and the cases are dropped."

Mon. 6-9-47

Federal authority appeared equally paralytic to punish the armed band in North Carolina from which Godwin Bush, a 24-year-old sawmill worker, had broken away to hide for his life in a near-by wood. The FBI, after rounding up seven white suspects, felt compelled to retire because no federal peace officer was involved in the jail delivery.

Local police chief Frank Outland at first refused to reveal the suspects' names, with the excuse that "after all, I have to live down here." At a press conference, Governor R. Gregg Cherry declared that "North Carolina will not tolerate lynchings and mob violence." But when asked if he planned to assign a special prosecutor to supersede Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler (a friend of several of the accused men), Cherry answered, "No." The seven were charged with kidnaping and breaking into a jail, and were released on $2,500 bail each to face a grand jury in August. Director Walter Anderson of the State Bureau of Investigation admitted, however, that obtaining indictments "isn't going to be easy."

Mon. 6-9-47

Bush, who, when the lynch posse came, had been in jail on charges of attempting to rape a white woman, was removed to a state penitentiary for safekeeping. The flurry over the near tragedy obscured the fact that the woman, who said a Negro had chased her down a dark street, later declared she could not identify Bush and admitted she had not been touched.

Buddy Bush's Heroism

30g N.C.

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.

BUDDY BUSH, young Negro, escaped a lynching the other day by an extraordinary act of bravery. He broke out of the hands of his would-be murderers.

But this young Negro in Jackson, N. C. may have escaped a private lynching only to face a legal lynching.

Smeared with the time-worn fake of "attempted rape," Buddy Bush faces the **lynch system** which showed in the Greenville, S. C. verdiet that it can condone the murder of Negroes in an open court despite a mountain of evidence proving guilt.

Wed. 5-28-47

In Georgia the other day, a young Negro boy was sentenced to die by a jury that conferred jeeringly for not more than three minutes. The **lynch system** will murder him just as surely as if he were being butchered on a lonely road.

In Washington, D. C. Monday, solemn, unsmiling and righteous-talking judges of the U. S. Court of Appeals decided that landlords may refuse to sell property to Negroes, or to those whites who might disobey the Jimcrow system.

There you have the system that is making our country's honor and our pretensions to democracy a mockery throughout the world.

* * *

WHAT is the lynch system? It is that deliberate degradation of an entire people, the Negro people, keeping them outside the pale of democracy. Its purpose is super-profits for plantation masters and mill owners, linked to the Wall Street banks. Under such a system, neither the whites nor the Negroes nor the South itself can make any progress toward a decent life.

The beneficiaries of this brutal lynch system are the nice, polite, "best people" of the wealthy upper classes who rake in the easy money out of the sweat of cheap, semi-slave labor.

Wed. 5-28-47

Both the GOP and the Democratic Parties are smeared with the blood of the lynch system. Neither fights it. The GOP, from time to time, gives lip service to anti-lynch laws. But it never acts.

A Federal anti-lynch bill, providing the DEATH PENALTY FOR LYNCHERS, is a national necessity.

New Yorkers are urged to join in the anti-lynch demonstration called by the Communist Party Thursday before the Democratic Party at the Hotel Biltmore, 43rd Street and Madison Avenue, and the GOP offices at the Hotel Roosevelt, 45 East 45th Street, at 5 p.m.

Raise your voice against the lynchers! Demand that Washington act to punish the murderers.

Kidnaping Warrants Issued For 7 In Lynching Attempt

Courier Journal Louisville, Ky.

30g

Wed. 5-28-47

From Wire Dispatches.

Jackson, N. C., May 27.—Warrants charging seven persons with kidnaping Godwin Bush, 24-year-old Negro who was taken from the jail here in an apparent lynching attempt last Friday, were signed before Magistrate J. H. Boone here tonight.

Earlier Sheriff J. C. Stephenson of Northampton County said warrants had been sworn against only four persons.

The sheriff, when asked if he planned to serve the warrants tonight, said, "Well, I don't know about that."

Wed. 5-28-47

F.B.I. Obtained Confession.

He referred all questions to Solicitor Ernest B. Tyler, who in near-by Rich Square had announced that warrants had been drawn up against four men on the basis of a confession the F.B.I. said it had obtained from one of the alleged members of the mob.

The F.B.I. said in Washington today the confession implicated six other white persons" in the affair.

Tyler said the identity of the men would not be revealed until they had been arrested by Stephenson.

In a statement given to the Associated Press by long-distance telephone, Tyler said, "We are charging them with kidnaping, the only felony involved in the case."

Cherry Hopes for Convictions.

In Raleigh, Governor Gregg Cherry said he was "glad they're making some progress" when informed that the F.B.I. had obtained a confession from one of the mob.

"I hope they'll get enough evidence to sustain convictions," Cherry added."

In Washington the F.B.I. said the confession implicated "seven other white persons" in the affair.

Named Seven Others.

Wed. 5-28-47

F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover said his agents had tracked down one member of the masked mob. Hoover refused to identify the suspect, but said he had made a full confession naming himself and six other white men as members of the mob. He said the confession was turned over to the County solicitor at Jackson because no violation of federal statutes was involved.

Federal civil rights laws provide no protection against mob action unless one of the conspirators is a public officer. Thus Hoover's statement indicated that the F.B.I. was satisfied no local officials at Jackson were mixed up in the lynching effort.

Accused of Rape Attempt.

Wed. 5-28-47

The armed mob snatched Bush from jail shortly after his arrest for the alleged attempted rape of a young white woman. The Negro bolted from his captors outside the jail and fled into the dark with a bullet whining over his head.

30g N.C.

In addition to kidnaping, Tyler said the men also would be charged with conspiracy and with breaking and entering a jail with intent to kill or injure a prisoner.

Kidnaping convictions carry mandatory life sentences in North Carolina. The maximum for the jailbreaking charge is two to 15 years.

News of the charges brought quick reaction in the towns of Rich Square, where Bush was arrested, and in Jackson.

Knots of visibly nervous men gathered on street corners and conversed in hushed voices. Tension was noticeable, but there was no disorder.

Many townspeople openly resented what they considered the F.B.I.'s intrusion. It was the federal agents to whom Bush surrendered voluntarily Sunday on assurances that he would be given safekeeping.

Antilynching Bill Offered.

Almost simultaneously with the F.B.I. announcement that no federal law covers the North Carolina case, an antilynching bill providing heavy fines for persons found guilty of mob violence or aiding lynch mobs was introduced in the Senate by Senators Wagner (D., N. Y.) and Morse (R., Ore.).

Wed. 5-28-47

The measure also provides for payment to mob victims or their families by the State or political subdivisions in which the crime occurred. It is almost identical with a bill introduced in the

GRAND JURY TO GET LYNCHING MOB CASE

New ~~york Times~~

Names of the North Carolina Prisoners Revealed—All Free in Bail of $2,500

309

JACKSON, N. C., May 28 (U.P.)—Hostility to "outside interference" grew in Northampton County today as seven white men charged with kidnapping a Negro from jail went free under $2,500 bond. In Rich Square, where the men live, residents made no secret of resentment at the arrests.

The seven men were named in a confession by one of them to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They waived preliminary hearings and were ordered held for the grand jury at the August term of Superior Court. Thurs. 5-29-47

Their bail was ready even before the arrests last night. Former Mayor Charles E. Myers of Rich Square headed the list of fifteen bondsmen.

County Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler identified the men today as Robert Vann, pickel packer; Russel N. Bryant, service station operator; Linwood and Gilbert P. Bryant, brothers, who are carpenters; Glenn W. Collier, barber; Joe L. Cunningham, movie employe, and W. C. Cooper, hamburger stand operator.

Godwin Bush, 24, who escaped from an armed white mob after being seized at the jail here, named one of the men. The FBI obtained the confession early yesterday.

FBI agents, to whom Bush surrendered Sunday for safekeeping, were still on the case, as were two agents of the State Bureau of Investigation, working under orders of Gov. Gregg Cherry.

Governor Cherry said in Raleigh today that he would "not be content until everyone connected with (the mob) is tracked down."

Bush was seized at the jail four hours after his arrest for an alleged attempted attack on Mrs. Margaret Allen Bryant, 23, at Rich Square. He is in central prison at Raleigh, and Governor Cherry said he did not think it would be wise to free him on bond. Thur. 5-29-47

The seven men were charged with kidnapping, conspiracy and breaking and entering a jail with intent to kill or injure a prisoner. Kidnapping convictions carry life sentences in North Carolina and the jail-breaking charge carries a maximum of two to fifteen years.

All the defendants except Vann are married and five have one or more children. Russell and Linwood Bryant are veterans.

House May 15 by Representative Case (R., N. J.).

Under the bill maximum penalties of $10,000 fine and 20 years' imprisonment could be imposed on persons who in any way incite or aid a mob or join one in an act of violence. Law officials would be subject to a $5,000 fine for failure to exert "diligent efforts" in apprehension and prosecution of persons violating the antilynch law.

Newsmen, Lives Threatened, Quit Carolina Lynch Town

Daily Worker New yorker, N.Y.

Fri. 5-30-47.

By Harry Raymond 309

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., May 29.—Newspapermen departed from the town of Jackson and nearby Rich Square last night as threats were made against their lives in connection with their reporting the arrest of seven white men charged with ~~attempting~~ to lynch Buddy Bush, a Negro, last week.

An official, who refused to be quoted, advised reporters not to stay in Rich Square after dark. He said he feared one of them **"might be killed."**

Later the reporters were told they had better get going to Ahoskie, a town 20 miles away, "if they didn't want their cars torn up."

Almost the entire white population of tiny Rich Square has rallied to the support of the seven local men charged with kidnaping for their alleged part in taking the Negro from the Northampton County jail. The Negro escaped the lynchers. He later gave up to FBI agents and is in Raleigh Central Prison, held without bail on a trumped-up attempt rape charge.

The seven accused white men, free on $2,500 bond each, and their friends have stirred up a frenzied mass hostility against "outside interference." Fri. 5-30-47

REPORT FBI QUITS

The FBI agents who secured a confession from Joe Cunningham, assistant movie house manager, causing the arrest of the seven, were denounced by one Rich Square citizen for "coming down here and sticking their noses in it." The FBI is reported to have withdrawn from the case, stating no federal civil rights were violated in the attempted lynching.

The most prominent townspeople of Rich Square are solidly behind the accused mobsters. Heading the list of 15 who signed their bail bonds is Mayor Charles E. Myers, owner of a small theatre chain. Another bondsman is N. L. Turner, superintendent of schools, whose high school students were holding graduating exercises when the alleged kidnapers were being technically placed under arrest.

Also signing bonds were V. J. Freeman, operator of the town's cleaning and pressing plant; L. E Bolton, hardware merchant; H. W. Shoulars, merchant; A. L. Vann, merchant; R. S. Howell, R. B. Bolton and J. C Bolton, drugstore operators. Fri. 5-30-47

POLICE CHIEF HELPS

Rich Square Police Chief Frank Outland, lending his support to the accused men, said: **"They're not criminals. They are the highest type familiies we have."**

One housewife was heard to ask: "Is there anything we folks can do to help these boys? If there is, I'd like to know." Fri. 5-30-47

Cunningham, the man who confessed, has left town. Others of the accused are Robert Vann, 40, member of a prominent family, employed in a pickle factory; Russell Bryant, in his early 30s, married and father of one child, filling station operator; Linwood Bryant in his 30s married and has several children a carpenter; Gilbert Bryant, in his late 30s, brother of Linwood Bryant, married, with one child, a carpenter; Glen Collier, in his 30s, married, with two children, a barber; W. C. Cooper, 32, married, with one child, operator of a hot dog stand.

Who Saved North Carolina

309 News & Courier

"All good citizens will rejoice", (The News and Observer of Raleigh has the floor), "that North Carolina has been saved the horror of its first lynching since 1935." The man who saved North Carolina from this horrible lynching was the negro who managed to get away from the masked men after they had taken him from jail. Charleston, S. C.

North Carolina Moves Swiftly for Justice

Thurs. 5-29-47

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

ALTHOUGH there still are men whose immaturity makes them likely members of a mob, there is sure evidence that a new conscience is awakening with regard to lynching.

While 28 members of a mob were acquitted in Greenville, S. C., for the lynching of WILLIE [illegible] Earle, they were brought to trial. Moreover there was an honest attempt to convict them. Evidence was submitted, and the judge charged the jury properly. But despite this, and despite their sworn oaths, the jurymen acquitted admitted lynchers. This, you may say, is not much of an awakened conscience. But there was a time when the defendants would not have been arrested; and when, had they been, their trial would have been a joke. This is no longer true in Greenville.

309

And apparently it is not going to be true in Rich Square, N. C., where seven men have been arrested for breaking into jail and abducting GODWIN BUSH to lynch him. They did not succeed, for BUSH wrenched away and fled. He later managed to surrender himself to legal authority again. And F.B.I. agents found evidence for local law officers to arrest seven of the conspirators.

This ancient ill is not so deep an infection as it once was. But events in the two Carolinas warn us once again of a strange deficiency in Federal law. For Federal civil rights provide no protection against mob violence unless a public officer is one of the conspirators. There is still an acute need for a Federal anti-lynching law. Thurs. 5-29-47

Once more such a law has been introduced in the Senate—by Republican Senator MORSE of Oregon and Democratic Senator WAGNER of New York. It has a chance this time to pass, with a Republican majority in both houses of Congress, with recollection of Greenville and Rich Square fresh in the nation's mind, and with a long record of unwillingness of local juries to do justice written in U. S. history.

ESCAPE FROM MOB RELATED BY NEGRO

309

Bush, in Jail at Raleigh, N. C., Says 2 of 5 Were Armed—He Hid 2 Days in Field

New York, N.Y. Times

RALEIGH, N. C., May 30 (AP)—Godwin (Buddy) Bush, the almost illiterate 22-year-old Negro, talked freely early today of his break-away from an armed and masked mob at Jackson a week ago, and his escape from the threat of a lynching. Sat. 5-31-47

Locking and unlocking his fingers nervously, the strongly-built six-foot lumberman's helper answered without hesitation questions put to him by a group of reporters in an interview last midnight in his cell in the State's Central Prison here. It was the first interview the authorities had permitted to him. Bush was emphatic on one point—he did not want to go back to Rich Square, the Northampton County village where he was arrested on a charge of attempted rape of a white woman. And he made a flat denial of guilt.

He then told as follows, how he was taken from the county jail at Jackson at 2 A. M. last Friday at pistol point.

"Three white men, all wearing masks of red-and-white handkerchiefs, came and woke me up. They told me to put on my clothes and come along."

Outside the jail he saw two other men. At least two of the five, he declared, had pistols. He was ordered to get into a four-door sedan.

"They put me in the back seat, but I got right out on the other side of the car. I fell getting out. I got up and ran; but I fell again."

He heard one pistol shot.

"I don't know how close it [the bullet] came and I never looked back. I didn't know where I was running or what I ran into. [Officers said he ran into a chicken wire.] I climbed two or three fences and just kept on running until I got lost about [day] light in some woods."

The interview was approved late last night by Ernest Tyler, Solicitor of Northampton County, and was arranged just before midnight. Sat. 5-31-47

Bush said one of the men was Joe Cunningham, an assistant theatre manager at Rich Square. Cunningham and six other white men have been charged with kidnapping, breaking and entering jail with intent to injure or kill Bush and of conspiracy to break and enter the jail with such intent. They are free under $2,500 bond each.

The prisoner said he was lost on Friday in the unfamiliar woods and that he had nothing to eat or drink that day or Saturday. He hid in the fields. About daylight Sunday he found his way to the home of a Negro he knew. The man got a breakfast for him, hid him and got in contact with Bush's father. After talking with his father and a Negro minister, Bush said he decided to surrender.

Carolina Solicitor Hopes To Prove Negro Lynching Story False

The News.

Birmingham, Ala.

Officers, Meanwhile, Are Continuing Search For Abducted Man

30g

JACKSON, N. C., May 24—(AP)—Solicitor E. R. Tyler said Saturday he did not think there had been a lynching in the case of a young Negro who was whisked away from the Northampton County Jail here by a masked, white band Friday after he had been arrested on a charge of attempted rape.

"I do not think Godwin Bush (the Negro) was lynched," he said. "I hope by nightfall we can prove it.

"The State Bureau of Investigation, Sherif J. C. Stephenson and Police Chief Frank Outland are doing all in our power to ferret out the true facts of this case."

Sheriff Stephenson said he thought he had a witness who would testify that Bush was not lynched.

He made that statement in the presence of Solicitor Tyler and requested the solicitor to accompany him to re-examine the supposed witness, whom he identified as a woman.

Sat. 5. 24-47

A FEW MINUTES BEFORE the solicitor made his statement, Tyler conferred with several SBI agents.

One agent, R. A. Allen, hurriedly left the conference and no one would say where he had gone.

Other investigating officers also suggested the possibility there had been no lynching.

"We worked all night," said a weary State Bureau of Investigation agent who would not be quoted by name, "and we are not so sure there has been a lynching."

MEANTIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT officers continued to comb through the thick pine woods of Northampton and nearby Hertford and Halifax Counties for the missing Negro.

30g

The object of the search was 24-year-old Godwin (Buddy) Bush charged with attempting to rape a young white woman. He was seized in the Northampton County jail here by an armed, masked band of white men who disappeared in the pre-dawn darkness yesterday.

No trace of the Negro, nor of his white captors, has been found by the more than 75 state highway patrolmen, State Bureau of Investigation agents, and city and county officers who have joined the search.

In Raleigh Gov. R. Gregg Cherry announced that he had ordered the FBI "to locate those responsible. Such persons will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. My instructions are that every officer attached to the State Bureau of Investigation is to be assigned there if it is necessary."

TENSION WAS HIGH in this agricultural county of 30,000 where two of every three persons is a Negro, but there has been no outbreak in the charged quiet.

Bush was charged with attempting to rape Mrs. Margaret Allen Bryant, a stenographer, in Rich Square, a small community about 12 miles from here, Thursday night.

He was identified by three high school boys who gave chase when Mrs. Bryant screamed. Police Chief Frank Outland, of Rich Square, said the young woman was unable to identify the Negro. Outland said Bush admitted being at the scene of the alleged assault, but denied attempting to molest Mrs. Bryant. Outland said Bush told him he was waiting for "my girl friend."

Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler, of nearby Roxobel, said that in view of previous race tension in the community he tried to have Bush removed from the jail here for safekeeping, but failed when he was delayed in reaching Sheriff Stephenson or Jailer E. W. Edwards by telephone.

The News

TYLER SAID HE FINALLY contacted Edwards only to learn that the Negro had been seized about five minutes before.

Race feelings were running high, Tyler said, following a previous alleged rape attempt by a Negro on a white woman in Rich Square about three weeks ago. At that time some 50 men surrounded the Jackson jail, but the two Negroes under arrest were removed to safety by officers.

Jailer Edwards said Bush was seized by about half a dozen masked men, all armed with guns, who knocked on the door of the jail in the early morning hours "went through the jail and took this nigger. They told me that was their price."

Birmingham, Ala.

Mrs. Edwards, his wife, said the men carried the Negro from the jail and placed him in one of four waiting automobiles. They drove off towards Rich Square, she said.

Bush, a logging camp employe, was unmarried. He lived two miles from Rich Square.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, of which Jackson is the county seat, and Hertford County border on Virginia in the northeastern section of North Carolina, just west of Dismal Swamp.

Sat 5-24-47

The area is some 400 miles from Greenville, S. C., where 28 men accused of the lynch-murder of Negro Willie Earle were acquitted Wednesday night.

There have been 99 lynchings in the history of North Carolina. Only Virginia of the Southern states has had as few. The last one in this state occurred July 30, 1935, at Louisburg, near Raleigh.

Lynchings Increase Following War's End

ATLANTA, May 24—(AP)—Negro lynchings in the South, which decreased during the war years, but since have shown an upward trend, have produced two internationally notorious cases within the past 10 months.

The first was the multiple slaying of four Negroes—two men and their wives—near Monroe, Ga., on July 25, 1946, by a mob of about 20 white men.

The other was the lynching of Wiillie Earle, 23-year-old Negro, which resulted in the recent mass murder trial of Greenville, S. C., of 31 white men, each of whom was acquitted.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's Negro school, lists three lynchings in 1943, two in 1944, and one in 1945. During the first postwar year, 1946, the number, however, increased sharply to six, to direct renewed attention to the South's most serious racial problem.

This problem was highlighted even today by the search through the thick pine forests of Northeasterrn North Carolina for a young Negro who was seized by armed masked mobsters at the Northampton jail and spirited away.

Meanwhile, Negro Willie Lee Duke was under heavy guard for safekeeping in an undisclosed jail in Arkansas as an aftermath of the fatal knifing of Mrs. Ethel Ellis Boyd, a cab company owner and driver. The Negro farm hand has been charged with her murder. A second Negro, reported to have been with Duke on the night Mrs. Boyd was slain, is being questioned by Arkansas authorities.

Justice Department May Enter Lynching Case

TOPEKA, Kan., May 24—(AP)—U. S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark has called for local judicial strength to combat injustice and declared the Justice Department "may go into court in the outrage in South Carolina where a local jury freed all the admitted participants in a lynching."

In a speech to the Kansas Bar Association meeting here, Clark said, "So long as I am attorney general and there is any thread of law to stand on, I shall try to see that justice is done to all our people, white or black. . . . I have caused the department to attempt prosecution in local cases where we had some facts and a thread of law to stand on. Such were the lynching cases in Monroe, Ga., and Linden, La."

Law Flouted in Carolina

Afro-American

Baltimore Md. Sat. 5-31-47

Captive Makes Daring Escape From Would-Be Lynchers

30g

JACKSON, N.C.—A feat unparalleled in the annals of mob violence occurred here Friday, when a man who had been taken from the Northampton County jail here by a lynch mob broke away from his captors outside the jail and fled safely through the darkness.

The man was Godwin (Buddy) Bush, 24-year-old logging camp worker, who gave himself up to FBI agents late Sunday night after he had been guaranteed protection.

According to Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler of Roxobel, who accompanied the three FBI men to where Bush was hiding out, the escapee had not eaten for 48 hours but was unharmed otherwise.

Bush, who was seized about 2 a.m. Friday morning, was being held in connection with the molesting of a young white woman.

At first, it was believed that the would-be lynchers had been successful and had thrown Bush's body into the Roanoke River, five miles away.

Break Seen by Woman

Later, however, a Miss Rose Howard had told Tyler that from her house across from the jail she had seen a man break away from a mob and flee into the night.

Tyler revealed that a minister had telephoned him to say that Bush would surrender if he was assured that he would not be harmed.

Sat. 5-31-47

Both he and the FBI refused to give additional information, saying, "We're trying to find those people who got him out of there."

Cherry Orders Search Continued

Upon learning that Bush was safe in the hands of the FBI, Governor R. Gregg Cherry, who had ordered State and local officials to get to the bottom of the matter, said:

"I still think that those who took him should be ferreted out and brought to justice."

The action of the Jackson mob was just one of a series of events which followed the acquittal of 28 men who admitted participation in the Willie Earle lynching in Greenville.

Chief among them involved the sentencing of James Brown in Sylvania, Ga., for criminally attacking a white woman.

Nearly 50 officers brought him from the State penitentiary to the courthouse, where he was ordered to die in the electric chair on June 17.

The courthouse itself was roped off and the area was swarming with policeman.

Same Thing in Arkansas

Similar precautions were taken in Forrest City, Ark., where Willie Duke, 31, who had been captured by a sheriff's posse in connection with the slaying of a white woman, was transferred to the State mental hospital.

Duke, a Navy veteran who served in the Philippines and the South Pacific, had been kept in an undisclosed jail for fear of possible mob violence.

Violence Feared in Darlington

A third instance was noted in Darlington, S.C., where a man charged with attacking a 67-year-old white woman was rushed to the State penitentiary on Sunday to avoid "possible mob violence."

He was listed as Willie Pooler, 20. According to Sheriff Wiley Grantham, Pooler confessed at the penitentiary.

Innocent People Searched

In Jackson, immediately after the capture of Bush, State Bureau of Investigation officers, State highway patrolmen and county officers joined in a half-hearted search through the swamps and woods for Bush's body or any signs left by the mob.

Then forgetting about the crime after a short while, they undertook a serious search for weapons possessed by colored people. The fact that colored people outnumber white 2 to 1 in this city of 800 is believed responsible for the intensity for the search.

Concentrating on veterans who they felt might have brought back foreign weapons, the policemen entered homes, without warrants, and also stopped both men and women on the street, looking for guns and knives.

The kidnaping of Bush occurred just 28 hours after a Greenville jury told 28 men who had confessed participating in a lynching that they were not guilty of anything at all.

In many ways, the Jackson case parallels the lynching of Willie Earle on Feb. 17 in Greenville, just 400 miles away.

Although it was known that tempers were high because of a criminal attack which had occurred several weeks before, Bush was placed in the small jail instead of being sent to Central prison at Raleigh.

Sat. 5-31-47

Furthermore, he was left protected by only one man, Jailer A. W. Edwards, a man in his sixties.

As in the Greenville case, the mob merely knocked on the door to get in.

'I Didn't Look Out'

Like Ed Gilstrap, Willie Earle's jailer, Edwards said he did not recognize any of the men to whom he turned over his prisoner. In addition, he said "I didn't look out after they'd taken the n——r out."

Immediately after the surrender of Bush, Edwards telephoned Sheriff A. W. Stephenson, who organized the posse trying to learn just what had happened.

Although bloodhounds generally are used in such a search, Stephenson said that dogs would not help for the area was so full of swamps.

Woman Tells Her Story

Bush, who was unmarried, lived with his parents at Rich Square. He worked in a logging camp.

The woman involved in the case, Mrs. Margaret Bryant, said that she was going to the movies about 8 p.m. alone.

After she passed three high school boys she knew, she said, she was walking down a street near a warehouse when she "saw a figure slumped down behind the building."

She said that he jumped up and started after her. Then she called the boys who chased the man, who eluded them.

'I'd Never Seen Him Before

When brought face to face with Bush, who was arrested later, she failed to identify him. Later she told reporters, "I didn't know him. They brought him here for me to identify, but I couldn't. I'd never seen him before."

The boys who were unable to catch him insisted that Bush was the man. Bush, however, told the arresting officer that he was near the warehouse because he was "waiting for my girl friend."

TARHEEL WEEK

- By -

C. D. Halliburton

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va. Sat. 6-14-47

Halliburton Fears Nothing Will Be Done About Abduction Of Bush Accused Of Attempted Rape At Rich Square; Cites Sympathy For Mob

309

RALEIGH, N. C.—The reaction of the white population of North Carolina to the attempted lynching in Northampton county, and to the arrest of alleged members of the lynching party, is not all of the same pattern. The daily newspapers throughout the state have from the beginning characterized the mob action as a disgrace and called for punishment of its members since they have been arrested. However, there seems to be strong sympathy for the accused mobsters in their home community, and it has not passed without notice that the mayor and other prominent citizens made bond for some of them.

The secrecy of the hearing, the swiftness of their release, and other evidences of special consideration for the men charged with breaking into the jail to do bodily harm to a prisoner, have caused more than a litle doubt in the minds of Negro citizens throughout the state as to the probability that the mob members will be punished, or even indicted. The fact that the case will not go to the grand jury until August does nothing to bolster a belief that anyone will ever be punished for the abduction of Godwin Bush.

Statements by Northampton peace officers before the arrests that the guilty persons would never be caught, and later expressions of doubt by other local officials as to the probability of indictment after the arrests had actually been made, are also grounds for the pessimistic views of many on the probability of ultimate justice in this rare case of attempted lynching. (Rare in the sense that the victim escaped safe and sound.)

Sat. 6-14-47

Another index of local reaction to the case was referred to in the editorial columns of last week's Journal and Guide. The reference was to a statement issued by a Mr. Vernon A. Strickland, a white Rich Square attorney. The burden of Mr. Strickland's statement was that interracial conditions were good in Rich Square, but that what he called "foreign press reports" were making it appear otherwise.

Mr. Strickland's statement was published in the Raleigh News and Observer, and an editorial in the same issue and on the same page made the strongest statement this writer has ever seen on the editorial pages of a southern daily in repudiation of the overworked and often entirely unjustified use of the "outside interference" dodge.

After acknowledging Mr. Strickland's letter, the News and Observer quoted from one of its own previous editorials:

"Northampton county has as fine citizens as can be found in any county in North Carolina. They may be relied upon to aid the law and not to obstruct attempts to punish those who attempted to take the law into their own hands. North Carolina does not condone rape or attempted rape. Neither does it condone mob violence. The shame upon the state must be wiped out."

Sat. 6-14-47

Continuing by saying that the News and Observer had not departed from its position as stated in the above quotation, the editorial went on:

"Northampton county is a part, and a valued part, of the State of North Carolina. The attack upon the jail at Jackson was an attack upon the state itself. Any reflection is shared by all the people of the state . . The whole state, including Northampton county, but not excluding any other part of the commonwealth, has a proper interest in seeing that the blot is wiped from its escutcheon.

"In that situation, there should be no red herring of 'outside interference' or 'foreign press.' Northampton county is not 'outside' of North Carolina and no newspaper published in this state or any other state is a part of any 'foreign press.'

"The only 'outside interference' that has occurred was the effort of those outside the law to take the law into their own hands and thereby interfere with justice."

• • • •

According to the Associated Press story, the police chief's wife accused newspapers, radio commentators and others of having made "heroes" of those alleged rapists who "are tr t-ing the women of this country as brutally as animals." She said, the AP story continues, that the real heroes are the men who apprehended the accused and suspected Negroes, including in this category the seven men who are accused of attempting to lynch Bush. The seven "are not criminals, they come from some of the finest families of the South," the policeman's wife is quoted as saying. "The meanest men would be a jury which would convict and separate these young men from their family and loved ones for trying to protect Rich Square from one of the worst tragedies we have ever had."

Lynch Try Probe Set In Carolina

The Montgomery Advertiser Montgomery, Ala. Sun. 8-17-47

309

JACKSON, N. C., Aug. 16.—(U.P.)—Sheriff J. C. Stephenson said tonight he had rearrested seven white men freed last week by the Northampton County grand jury in the attempted lynching of a young Negro, while in Raleigh Gov. Gregg Cherry ordered a preliminary hearing for the men in Jackson Sept. 2.

Stephenson said he had "no trouble" in serving warrants on the men in nearby Rich Square and that they were immediately released on $2,500 bond.

The warrants were sworn out in nearby Snow Hill, N. C., by Superior Judge J. Paul Frizzelle.

The governor, moving sternly to bring the men to trial, ordered Frizzelle to sit as a committing magistrate and Solicitor Ernest R. Tylor to direct the state's case.

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99 MARTYRS TO CAUSE:

309

Afro-American

N. C. Proves Good Law Can Wipe Out Lynching

Baltimore, Md. Sat. 6-7-47

RALEIGH, N.C.—With 99 lynchings to its discredit, North Carolina has had a sorry history, figures indicate. However, a changed attitude is reflected in the words of Gov. R. Gregg Cherry, who upon learning of the attempt to make Godwin Bush the 100th victim, said, "North Carolina will not tolerate lynchings and mob violence."

Earlier, a predecessor of Governor Cherry, Cameron Morrison, called for positive action to prevent lynchings after a troop he ordered out arrived too late to save the man. He said then, "I don't believe in sending soldiers to a funeral."

After his administration, there were other lynchings, but the State now takes pride in the fact that there have been none in the past 12 years.

Lynch Law Enforced

Therecord is attributed to the fact that State officials now insist on protection of prisoners and also so that lynchers and would-be lynchers are punished by a law which is really enforced.

Under that law, four men blamed for the 1941 murder of Robert Melker in Gaston County, which Tuskegee Institute's bureau called a lynching, were given terms ranging from 14 to 25 years.

The next year, in April, five others attempted to seize a Person County prisoner charged with criminal assault. They were held off by the sheriff and other policemen. Photographs taken by photographer for a daily paper led to their identification and conviction. Sat. 6-7-47

$20,000 Reward Ignored

It was not always so, however. During the administration of Governor Aycock, there were nine lynchings. Even a $30,000 reward failed to lead to the culprits. At that time, public sympathy for lynchers was high.

Later, Gov. W. W. Bickett led law enforcement officers quelling an uprising in Wake. He ordered, "Protect the prisoner at all hazards, and shoot straight."

'Lynch Law' Grew Out of N.C. Action, Say Some Historians

RALEIGH, N.C. — The term "lynch law" did not grow out of the mob murder of Judge Charles Lynch in Virginia, but rather out of the hanging of Major Lynch, a British tax collector, in Franklin County some historians say.

According to their records, Major Lynch was mobbed by a group of the then Bute County citizens who captured him after a short chase and hanged him from an oak tree along the Tar River near New Bern.

Prosecutor Was Ready To Begin Mobsters' Trials In 10 Minutes

Journal and Guide, Norfolk, Va.

Sat - 8-9-47

By P. BERNARD YOUNG JR.

JACKSON, N C. — A special grand jury wrestled for the better part of the day with the evidence in the Godwyn "Buddy" Bush attempted lynching and rape cases without reaching announced decision Monday before adjournment of Superior Court of Northampton County.

30g N.C.

Charged by Judge Paul Frizzelle of Snow Hill, N. C., the grand jurors began deliberation just before noon and adjourned at 5:35 p. m. The resumed deliberations at 9:30 Tuesday morning.

Judge Frizzelle, especially assigned to the case, made a 40-minute address to the grand jury and warned its members that "you must have an eye, intellect, and a conscience singled toward the performance of your duties." 9/9/47

Judge Frizzelle cautioned the jurors to maintain absolute secrecy, as required by law, on what transpired in the jury room, and assured them that such secrecy would permit them "to return to your homes without fear that the part played by any one of you will be divulged." Journal & Guide

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS TO JURY

Norfolk, Va.

He further instructed the jury that "if the evidence does not make out probable cause do not return true bills, but if it does, do the only thing you can do—return a true bill." "They will be holding court here maybe for thousands of years and the part that you or I play, if we are worthy of our forebears, will not reflect dishonor upon us." Sat. 8/9/47

County Solicitor (Prosecutor) Ernest R. Tyler asked for indictments against seven white men accused of being in the mob which abducted Bush from the local jail, on three counts and against Bush on a charge of attempting to rape young Mrs. Margaret Allen Bryant Rich Square stenographer.

Solicitor Tyler said Monday that in the event of indictments he would seek immediate trials of the accused. "I am ready to begin the prosecution, within 10 minutes, if true bills are returned."

G-MEN PROMINENT AMONG WITNESSES

Sat. 8/9/47

G-men from the Federal Bureau of Investigation were prominent among witnesses called before the grand jury. Four of them testified to the evidence uncovered by them and leading to the arrest of the seven accused mobbists. It had been reported earlier that one of the would-be lynchers had signed a confession made to FBI investigators concerning his part in the jail delivery.

It was also reported that Bush identified to authorities the auto used in the jail delivery and one member of the mob unofficially understood to be its leader.

Asked in court Monday by a Guide reporter, Bush declined to deny or confirm this rumor, smilingly explaining; "I had better tell what I know only after I get on the witness stand."

The accused mobbists were: Robert Vann, pickle factory worker; Russell Bryant, filling station operator; Linwood and Gilbert Bryant, brothers, carpenters; Glen Collier, barber; W. G. Cooper, lunch stand operator; and Joe Cunningham, assistant theatre manager, all of Rich Square.

FREED ON $2,500 BAIL

The seven white men were at liberty on $2,500 bail and Bush was free on $1,000 bail. The three charges against the white men, who waived preliminary hearings were: kidnapping, conspiracy to break enter a jail with intent to injure or kill Bush, and breaking and entering a jail with intent to injure or kill Bush.

Each charge against them carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison under North Carolina law.

Bush was faced with a charge calling for a maximum of 10 years if convicted. He has staunchly denied all guilt or intention to harm Mrs. Bryant in any way.

He stated that he had been to a movie with a girl friend, was returning with her to her place of employment and was awaiting her when Mrs. Bryant approached him, showed fright and screamed. He in turn became frightened and ran. Three white high school boys who saw him running identified him to the Rich Square police chief. Sat. 8/9/47

WITNESSES BEFORE GRAND JURY

The seven witnesses who appeared before the grand jury were: Jailer E. W. Edwards, from whom an armed and masked mob seized Bush last May 23; Mrs. Edwards, the jailer's wife; Miss Rosa Howard, who lives across the street from the jail and saw Bush escape his abductors; Mrs. Bryant, Bush's accuser, and four FBI agents, Jack C. Ward, P. B. Beacham, James W. Cannon, all of Charlotte, N. C. and D. K. Brown, of Savannah, Ga.

Routine court procedure was held up during the afternoon by a ceremony in connection with the unveiling of a confederate hero. (See editorial columns for comment on this proceeding).

The grand jury consisted of 18 men. They were told by Judge Frizzelle that they must possess "moral courage, a high sense of self-respect, and more than average character." He did not make direct reference to the attempted lynching, saying instead that he was not aware of what had been happening in Northampton County, scene of strained racial relations this year other than what he had seen in newspapers.

The big courtroom in the county's white brick courthouse was packed with 500 spectators of both races, with a slight predominance of Negroes, many of whom were forced to stand all day.

Grand Jury Considers Indicting Lynch Party

Tues 8-5-47

B'ham, Ala.

JACKSON, N. C., Aug. 5—(AP)—The Northampton Superior Court today awaited action by its 18-man Grand Jury on a state request that seven white men, accused of mob action against a Negro, be made to stand trial.

30g N.C.

Asked by Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler yesterday to return true bills on each of three counts against the seven men, the Grand Jury retired and called several witnesses, among them four FBI agents.

Among other witnesses was 24-year-old Godwin (Buddy) Bush, Negro sawmill worker and the intended victim of a mob early last May 23. A true bill also is sought against Bush on charges that he attempted to assault a young white woman of Rich Square. Tues 8-5-47

The white men for whom the indictments were asked are Russell Bryant, Robert Vann, Linwood Bryant, Gilbert Bryant, Glenn Collier, Joe Cunningham and W. G. Cooper.

Presence of the FBI agents indicated that Solicitor Tyler will present a confession which the FBI said it had obtained.

No More Chances Bush Tells Writer

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

30g Atlanta

JACKSON, N. C. —(NNPA)— Godwin (Buddy) Bush, 24, who was exonerated by the Northampton grand jury here August 5 of charges of assault, confided to a NNPA reporter that he was "getting out of town before night."

He obviously was taking no more risk of being executed without benefit of a trial as he nearly was on May 2, ast, when he was abducted from the jail here by a masked mob but escaped into the swamps from the automobile in which he was to be carried to his execution. Atlanta, Ga.

Bush denied that he had offered not to testify against his would-be lynchers if he were given his freedom. He stoutly affirmed that if the case arose again, he would testify against those who sought to exact his life at the end of a hangman's noose.

"I am not afraid," he declared.

Governor R. Greggy Cherr has srheduled a meeting with Judge J. Paul Frizelle and Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler for Wednesday to discuss the case. Within a few hours after the grand jury had reported no bills against the seven white men accused of abducting Bush from the jail here the governor ordered Judge Frizell to investigate the case and bring the men to trial in an adjoining county.

His home town lawyer, Vernon D. Strickland, of Rich Square, told a NNPA reporter immediately after the grand jury reported that he felt the grand jury believed, whatever the evidence, that since Bush had not actually been harmed, and was not guilty, it might just as well free the accused mobbists "in the interest of good racial relations." Wed. 8-13-47

He added that "the best people of the county are ashamed that several mistakes were made: (1) that Mrs. (Margaret) Bryant was frightened and charged Bush with a felony when he merely scared her when she came upon him unexpectedly; (2) that the local police chief acted precipitately in making the arrest without thorough investigation, and (3) that a bunch of hard-drinking hot-heads sought to lynch the youth." Wed.

He told Bush that "the people who were your friends before are still your friends." 8-13-47

Gov. Cherry Orders Retrial of 7 Mobsters

The Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

Sat 8-16-47

(Continued from Page 1)

against her last May 23.

Governor's Statement

Governor Cherry, expressing official disappointment that no indictment was returned against the men, said action of the grand jury "does not close the case."

In a ringing statement of censure on the jury's action, the Governor revealed plans to convene a special court for a rehearing. He said:

30g N.C.

"Under authority that I have under the laws of our State, I will instruct a superior court judge to convene a court, sit as a committing magistrate, give thorough investigation to this matter, hear all available evidence, and commit those charged for trial in an adjoining county . . .

"I feel from information received by State investigators, that there was sufficient evidence for the finding of a true bill . . . It is not the duty of a grand jury to pass on the facts, or on the innocence or guilt of those charged with a crime."

Flight Made Headlines

Bush made the nation's headlines when he escaped from the armed mob after it took him from the jail, and attempted to shift him to the middle of the rear seat of the automobile.

He hid in the woods without food or water for two days, made his way to the home of friends, and was taken to Raleigh for safekeeping after his father and a minister arranged with Solicitor Tyler for his surrender.

Chose White Lawyer

He was represented by Vernon D. Strickland, a white attorney of Rich Square. The members of the mob who were set free were:

Robert Vann, pickle factory employee; Russell Bryant, filling station operator; Linwood Bryant and Dilbert Bryant, brothers, who are carpenters; Glenn Collier, barber; Joe Cunningham, assistant theater manager; and W. C. Cooper, hot dog stand operator. Sat-8-16-47

All are married except Vann, and all the others have children except Cunningham, who confessed to special FBI agents assigned to the case and implicated his associates. Cunningham was identified by Bush.

Accuser Testifies

Mrs. Bryant was the first witness to testify before the jury. She was accompanied to the courtroom by several women. Three white high school pupils, Rudolph Evans. Robert Branch and Robert Modlin also testified. They were near the alleged attack scene.

Bush slumped slightly in his seat when informed by Judge J. Paul Frizelle that the grand jury refused to indict him. He said, "Thank God!" and waited to hear the jury's action on the men who sought to take his life.

Comforted by Pastors

The young defendant was nattily dressed in a new brown suit and a green striped tie. At his side were the Revs. P. A. Bishop of Rich Square, and W. L. Mason, pastor of St. James Baptist Church in Rocky Mount.

The Rev. Mr. Bishop was one of the signers of the $1000 bond in which Bush was held.

'Ashamed', Says Woman

Reaction to the grand jury's and the Governor's action was mixed in Northampton county.

"I cannot help but feel ashamed," said a white woman in serious tones.

"I was not surprised at the jury's action," declared a habitual courtroom spectator.

The majority of colored people in the courtroom were silent and thoughtful, but the whites, although quiet, beamed with joy.

The seven mobsters rushed out to the courtyard to receive congratulations from their friends, One said, "We want to forget all about this judge as quickly as we can." Sat-8-16-47

Judge, Solicitor Silent

Apparently stunned by the jury's action in freeing the men, Judge Frizzelle tightened his lips when he read the "no true bills" handed him by the jury foreman, S. G. Baugham.

Solicitor Ernest Tyler who demanded indictment of the defendants, shrugged his shoulders as he read the jury's decision. Baugham declined to say if the decision was unanimous.

Accused Jailer Is Arrested

Journal and Guide

Confession Holds Seventh Man In Buddy Bush Case

Sat.

By P. Bernard Young Jr.
Special to Journal and Guide

JACKSON, N. C: — The hearing of charges against the accused would-be lynchers of Godwin "Buddy" Bush came to a sudden and dramatic end at 4:12, Tuesday afternoon when Judge J. Paul Frizzelle "reluctantly" dismissed charges against six of the seven men "because of the incompetency of the law" but bound over the confessed leader of the mob, Joe Cunningham for trial on September 15 in adjoining Warren county. 9-6-47

And before an amazed packed courtroom the jurist ordered the immediate arrest of Jailor E. W. Edwards for supinely admitting the mob members to the Northampton County jail and conspiring with them in the lynching attempt.

He raised the bond for Cunningham from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and held Edwards under bond of the same amount, remanding both to the custody of the sheriff. Norfolk, Va.

In announcing the dropping of charges against six of the men, Judge Frizzelle emphatically stated that only technicalities which kept Cunningham's confession from legally implicating them made it possible that they walk out of the courtroom as free men. N.C.

In a ringing and lengthy lecture the able jurist described the jailor's actions as reprehensible. 9-6-47

"I could not leave this courtroom," he said, "and keep my self respect intact if I did not issue this bench warrant against an officer guilty of your actions."

Six Men Freed, One Held, In Attempted Lynching Of Negro

Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.
Wed. 9-3-47

JACKSON, N. C., Sept. 3—(AP)— Six white men accused in the attempted lynching of a Negro were free today while a seventh faced action by a neighboring county Grand Jury Sept. 15, along with the Northampton County jailer.

Arrest of the elderly jailer on a bench warrant yesterday climaxed the dramatic case of the seven Rich Square men charged with mob action last May 23 against Godwin (Buddy) Bush.

Superior Court Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, authorized as committing magistrate to determine if there was probable cause against the seven defendants, directed that Joe Cunningham, an assistant theater manager, be held for action by the Warren County Grand Jury, and in a surprise move ordered the arrest of the jailer—A. W. Edwards—for action by the same jury.

The seven men were freed some time ago by a Northampton Grand Jury which failed to find a true bill against them. Gov. R. Gregg Cherry termed the action a "miscarriage of justice" and a "reflection on the State of North Carolina." Wed. 9-3-47

Judge Frizzelle subsequently was commissioned by the governor to sit as a committing magistrate.

Freed in yesterday's action were Robert Vann, pickle factory worker; Russell Bryant, filling station operator; Linwood and Gilbert Bryant, brothers, carpenters; Glenn Collier, barber, and W. C. Cooper, lunch stand operator.

The jailer's arrest followed his own testimony that there had been no force or threats against him when the 22-year-old Negro, who had been booked on a charge of attempted assault with intent to commit rape, was taken from his custody.

Jailer Edwards was charged with conspiracy in breaking and entering a jail and with aiding and abetting in the breaking and entering.

Cunningham is charged with conspiracy to break and enter a jail and with breaking and entering a jail with intent to kill or injure Bush, the same counts on which the other six men were originally charged. Each of the two counts carries a maximum imprisonment of 15 years. Wed. 9-3-47

Judge Frizzelle today admitted into evidence, over defense objections, a purported confession which FBI Agent P. B. Beacham, of Charlotte, said was made by Cunningham to several FBI agents.

NORTH CAROLINA GIVES LYNCH CASE PRIORITY

Times
New York, N.Y.

JACKSON, N. C., Aug. 31 (AP)— A fifty-four-year-old anti-lynching law, enacted by a North Carolina legislature during an era marked by frequent mob action, will be called into play here Tuesday when charges against seven white men are aired at a special hearing.

The state's second attempt to prosecute seven Rich Square residents on charges growing out of the attempted lynching of a young Negro last May 23 is the occasion for invoking the 1893 law.

An eighteen-man Northampton County grand jury refused to indict the seven on Aug. 5. Mon. 9-1-47

Terming the grand jury's action "a reflection on the State of North Carolina," Gov. R. Gregg Cherry turned swiftly to the state's statute books and ordered further action under the anti-lynching law. He appointed a special magistrate.

The law provides for broader jurisdiction in lynching cases than ordinarily permitted for other criminal cases. Specifically, it gives "the Superior Court of any county which adjoins the county in which the crime of lynching shall be committed complete jurisdiction over the crime and offender to the same extent as if the crime had been committed within the bounds of the adjoining county."

The defendants are charged with breaking and entering a jail with intent to kill or injure a prisoner. The grand jury which refused to indict them also refused to indict Godwin Bush, the prisoner, who was arrested on charges of attempted assault on a young white woman. Mon. 9-1-47

Governor Cherry Hits False Racial Pride

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Va.

Governor R. Gregg Cherry of North Carolina, (left), and Dr. H. B. Shaw, general officer of the AME Zion Church, at the public meeting of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the church, held in Wilmington, N. C. Dr. Shaw introduced Governor Cherry as a fearless leader who will not tolerate lynch law in North Carolina. Sat. 9-6-47

The governor said: "Three billion people can live together on a globe grown suddenly small only if we bring our knowledge up to over knowledge of physical science. Let us take pride not in a false assumption of superiority to any other people, but in our friendly knowledge of all the other peoples of the world."

Sympathetic whites rush to post bond for indicted pair

Tribune, Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 9-13-47

JACKSON, N. C. — Twenty or more persons offered to post bond for the two whites ordered held to trial for the attempted lynching of Godwin "Buddy" Bush, a reporter, commenting on the case, revealed here this week.

When bail was set at \$5,000 for Jailer A. W. Edwards and Joe Cunningham, assistant manager of the Rich Square theatre, each was deluged by offers from sympathetic whites who had sat in quiet scorn of Gov. Gregg Cherry's special hearing presided over by a special magistrate. The two, with six others, had previously been cleared by a grand jury of locals.

Edwards and Cunningham will be tried in Warrenton, county seat of Warren, 40 miles from here, under an ancient anti-lynching law which permits transference of cases to adjoining counties to prevent prejudice from influencing

In his ruling, Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, the magistrate, declared:

"There isn't any justification in the people's taking the law into their own hands. Right thinking people ought to condemn that procedure."

Judge Frizzelle was especially sharp with the jailer who admitted having willingly delivered Bush into the mob's hands. Said the jurist: Sat. 9-13-47

"You had the custody of those prisoners and your obligation to the State and to the law of the land required you to do far more than is indicated you did to protect them.

"Not once did you ask or beg them to desist. According to the defendant Cunningham's statement, you led them into the Negro's cell and pointed him out.

"I couldn't leave this courtroom with my self-respect intact if I didn't hold you."

Lynch Mobsters Post $2500, Walk Out Free

Daily Worker

New york, N.Y. Thur. 5-29-47

30g

By Harry Raymond

JACKSON, N. C., May 28.—None of the seven white men arrested last night on charges of kidnapping and breaking into the county jail in an attempt to lynch Buddy Bush, 24-year-old Negro, was permitted by local officials to suffer the indignity of being locked in a cell.

Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler, local prosecutor, arranged for the alleged lynch mobsters to appear voluntarily at the home of Rich Square police chief Frank Outland, 12 miles from here, where they posted $2,500 bond each and walked out free.

Everything was carried out with the utmost friendship and politeness between law officers and the accused. The arrests, after FBI agents had presented Tyler with a confession by one mob member involving six others, were made reluctantly. For some, if not all of the accused, are close friends of the solicitor, the chief of police and Northampton County Sheriff J. C. Stephenson.

Picket Two Parties Today

Mass picket lines under the auspices of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party will demonstrate before the New York headquarters of the Republican and Democratic National Committees today (Thursday) at 5 p.m. to protest the current wave of lynchings in the South and to demand passage of anti-lynch legislation by Congress. Thur. 5-29-47

A delegation will visit national leaders of both parties, and communications have been sent to Governor Thomas E. Dewey, Edward J. Flynn and Paul Fitzpatrick, requesting appointments. . . .

The delegation to Democratic headquarters will consist of Robert Thompson, Benjamin J. Davis, Israel Amter, Hal Simon, George Blake, Dave Rosenberg, Robert Campbell, Paul Crosbie, Rose Gaulden, Lillian Gates and Charles Evans.

The delegation to Republican headquarters will consist of William Norman, Peter V. Cacchione, Simon W. Gerson, Charles Loman, Carl Vedro, Anthony Morton, Isidore Begun, Herbert Wheeldin, Constance Jackson, Fay Vedro and Jim Faber.

When the warrant for arrest of the seven was sworn in a back room of the old courthouse, Tyler announced Sheriff Stephenson had been assigned to place them in custody. Actually the sheriff did not go out and arrest the group. Instead, he sent word to them that they were wanted, advised each to have $2,500 bail bond ready and to report to Rich Square.

Earlier the sheriff stated he did not believe the would-be lynchers would ever be found.

Neither Tyler, Stephenson nor Outland would reveal the names of the men charged with the kidnapping. Tyler told newspapermen to get the names from the sheriff. But the sheriff refused to disclose their identity. Thur. 5-29-47

Reporters then approached chief Outland, who said he would give the names after all newspapermen were present. All the reporters were rounded up at the chief's home. A few minutes later seven men, believed to be the alleged lynchers, entered the chief's office. They called him to one side and talked to him. 30a

Chief Outland came back to the newspapermen and said meekly:

"I've changed my mind. I can't give out their names." He explained: "After all, I have to live down here." N.C. (attempt)

Here are the names of the seven, identified by an authoritative source late last night:

Robert Vann, pickle factory worker; **Russell Bryant**, filling station operator; **Linwood and Gilbert Bryant**, brothers, carpenters; **Glenn Collier**, barber; **Joe Cunningham**, assistant theatre manager, and **W. C. Cooper**, operator of a hot dog stand. All are from **Rich Square**, town of 1,000 population.

TALKS TO ACCUSED Thur. 5-29-47

They are charged on a single warrant with kidnapping and breaking into jail with intent to harm or kill a prisoner. Conviction on kidnaping carries a mandatory life prison sentence. The other charge carries a penalty up to 15 years.

I talked with two of the accused men, one of them twice, before they were officially charged with taking the Negro from the jail.

Not suspecting he was a member of the lynch mob, I asked Gilbert Bryant, big burly filling station man, if he could get me a car last Sunday morning to take me to the Jackson jail. He did not appear a bit nervous. He asked me if I heard anything new on the case. There were two State Highway patrolmen loafing at the gas pump at the time. Bryant got a man to drive me 12 miles to the jail.

I met Bryant again that night after the FBI had found the Negro alive. He was at his filling station talking to Chief Outland and another highway patrolman. I was discussing Buddy Bush's sensational escape from the mob with Chief Outland. Bryant listened with an air of approval as Outland denounced "federal meddling in this case in behalf of the n----r." Bryant laughed as the chief joked about the "bad aim" of the mob member who shot at the fleeing Negro and missed him.

NO RETURN INVITATION

When I left Rich Square Monday afternoon for Raleigh, Glenn Collier, the barber and alleged mob member, helped me find a man to carry my typewriter and part of my baggage to the bus station. I don't recall Collier telling me to "hurry back," the common expression which greets a stranger down here when he leaves town.

Prior to the arrests in Rich Square, I attended Gov. Gregg Cherry's press conference in the capitol in Raleigh. Asked if he planned to assign a special prosecutor to supercede Tyler in the Jackson case, he replied, "No."

"But don't you think it would be embarrassing for Tyler to prosecute some of his good friends?" asked a reporter for Josephus Daniels' News and Observer. Thur. 5-29-47

"No," the governor declared, "He's a conscientious prosecutor."

OBSTRUCT BUSH COUNSEL

Meanwhile, Herman L. Taylor, Negro attorney from Durham, succeeded in conferring with Buddy Bush, intended lynch victim, in Raleigh central prison. Taylor was retained by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People to represent the Negro, who is being held without bail on a trumped up attempt-to-rape charge.

Taylor protested to the governor that the warden refused to permit him to speak to Bush. The governor got in touch with Solicitor Tyler who gave Taylor permission to see Bush providing he agreed not to make public any statements by the imprisoned Negro.

Bush, a bullet whizzing over his head, fled the masked, armed men as they took him from the jail in the dark pre-dawn last Friday. He hid 48 hours in the woods and gave up to FBI agents Sunday. His identification of one of his captors led to a mob member's confession and the arrests later. Thur. 5-29-47

Kidnap Warrants Signed Against 7 Alleged Mobsters

Fla. Times Union
Jacksonville, Fla.

30g

JACKSON, N. C., May 27. (AP)—Warrants charging seven persons with kidnaping for taking Godwin (Buddy) Bush, 24-year-old negro, from the jail here in an apparent lynching attempt last Friday were signed before Magistrate J. H. Boone here tonight. Wed. 5-28-47

Earlier Sheriff J. C. Stephenson of Northampton County said that warrants had been sworn against only four persons.

The sheriff, when asked if he planned to serve the warrants tonight, said:

"Well, I don't know about that."

The sheriff referred all questions to Solicitor Ernest B. Tyler who only an hour before had announced that charges were being brought on the basis of a confession which the FBI said had been obtained today from one of the members of the mob which took Bush, a suspect in the alleged attempted rape of a white woman, from the jail. The negro escaped after making a break for freedom just after he had been placed in an automobile in front of the jail. Wed. 5-28-47

In Raleigh, Governor Cherry said he was "glad they're making some progress."

"I hope they'll get enough evidence to sustain convictions," Cherry added."

FBI 'Solves' Lynch Case, Then Leaves It To Southern Justice

PM New york, N.Y. Wed. 5-28-47

30g

The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that its agents had obtained a confession implicating eight white men in the attempted lynching of Godwin Bush, 24-year-old Negro, who was taken from jail at Jackson, N. C., last Friday by an armed, masked band.

J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief, said the confession, by one of the eight men, had been turned over to Northampton County authorities at Jackson and that the FBI would now bow out. Wed. 5-28-47

"Facts developed by the FBI in solving the case," said Hoover, "have been reviewed by the Justice Dept. and Assistant Attorney General T. Lamar Caudle has determined that no violation of Federal law is involved.

This means that the FBI is satisfied that no law enforcement officials were involved in the crime. Federal Civil Rights laws provide no protection against mob action unless one of the conspirators is a public officer.

At Jackson, County Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler followed with a statement that a suspect and a confession had been turned over to him by the FBI, but refused to divulge any other details. Wed. 5-28-47

At Raleigh, Gov. Gregg Cherry

denied reports that he was planning to appoint a special prosecutor to supplant Tyler, voiced surprise that Tyler hadn't told him anything about the arrest and confession.

Meanwhile, Bush, who broke away from his kidnapers outside the Jackson jail and got away, was safe in Central Jail at Raleigh, awaiting trial on a charge of attempting to rape a white woman.

No NAACP Lawyer In Buddy Bush Case Amazing

30 9 Journal and Guide 8/9/47 Sat. Norfolk Va.

Staff Correspondence

JACKSON, N.C.—A mild case of consternation hit this little Northampton county town Monday when Godwyn "Buddy" Bush appeared in court without the services of a lawyer representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and that there was no association counsel associated with the prosecution in seeking the conviction of the seven men charged with kidnapping Bush from jail and only by a miracle, not taking his life without benefit of trial. 8/9/47 Sat.

The answer is that Bush positively refused to be represented by the association's lawyer, Herman Taylor, of Raleigh, N.C., former law professor at North Carolina College, Durham, and was supported in this refusal by his pastor and confidante, the Rev. D. A. Johnston, of Rich Square, N.C., president of his county NAACP branch.

Moreover, even Dr. R. Arliner Young, of Durham, who secured Bush's original written consent to have Taylor for counsel, seemed not inclined to urge reconsideration upon Bush. She was emphatic, however, in talking to this reported, in pointing out that Bush has not refused NAACP aid, but only the aid of NAACP Lawyer Taylor.

Journal + Guide Sat.

All of this requires some explaining, and the explanation given to this reporter, the only Negro press representative on hand when the trial preliminaries got under way Monday, was this:

Norfolk Va.

Immediately after Bush was released on bail after confinement at state prison, Raleigh, in order to attend the funeral of his father, he was, on the advice of friends, secreted at a home in Princess Ann County, Va., near Norfolk. Some weeks ago, Taylor, confidentially advised of his whereabouts, went to Virginia to confer with Bush—or to assist a reporter friend to obtain a "scoop" or both. Anyway, he was accompanied to Norfolk by this reporter friend not connected with the Journal and Guide, and carried him to see Bush.

BRAGGED OF SCOOP 8/9/47

Next week a newspaper published several states away and one in North Carolina ran stories bragging in headlines that Bush's hideaway was uncovered. Bush and his advisers felt strongly that this was not in the interest of the youth's safety. Had it been wise for him not to remain "under cover" pending trial, he would have remained in his own home town.

Also, both Bush and his closest advisers were none too happy about the "delay" in NAACP counsel interviewing Bush and in the infrequency of such conferences as he held with the youth.

Those concerned with NAACP's good name and past record of assistance in cases involving the legal rights of citizens are notably upset by the turn of events, but as this was written it appeared that Bush would be represented only by a white home-town lawyer. This lawyer is highly regarded locally and his presence in the case is insisted upon by Bush, regardless of any other lawyers who would have or may enter the case.

A Southern Governor Hits At Old Injustice

30 9 N.C.

Thur. 8-7-47

THERE is an unusual sequel to the usual story of a Southern grand jury's refusal to indict a group of would-be lynchers. It comes in the vigorous protest of the action by North Carolina's Governor GREGG CHERRY, in whose State the incident occurred.

An even greater departure from the ordinary is seen in that Mr. CHERRY refuses to be content with a protest, however forthright and indignant. He proposes to pursue the matter further, using all the powers at his command, which include instruction to a court to act notwithstanding the grand jury whitewash.

Courier-Journal

The case is that of a mob which broke into the Northampton County jail May 23 and took out a young Negro, GODWIN BUSH, who was charged with attempting the usual crime upon a white woman. BUSH escaped from his captors while they were headed to a gallows tree, but gave up to F.B.I. men three days later. There seemed to be little doubt of the identity of the lynching party's members, at least one of whom had confessed, as the Governor pointed out.

Norfolk, Va.

North Carolina has a good record of concern for civil liberties and equal justice. One cannot but feel that Governor CHERRY would have responded as he did under any circumstances. He probably would have done so even if the same grand jury had not absolved the Negro, thus showing the tragic injustice of the mob impulse. Or even if the eyes of the country had not been directed to his region by the recent travesty in Greenville, in adjoining South Carolina, where a trial jury acquitted 23 men known to have lynched a Negro.

Thur-8-7-47

From that low point an important advance now is marked toward solution of the South's most troublous problem. For, however immovable seems to be the local pattern of discrimination and prejudice, there is always an advance when this is rebuked by an authoritative and representative voice arising out of the same scene.

Summons N. C. SBI Head Two Agents For a Rehearing

Pittsburgh Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

30 9 Sat. 8-16-47

By A. M. RIVERA JR.
(Staff Correspondent)

JACKSON, N. C.—Severe criticism of the Northampton County Grand Jury, which freed the seven would-be lynchers (one of them confessed) of Godwin "Buddy" Bush, by Governor R. Gregg Cherry, was followed by the arrival of SBI head Walter Anderson and two agents to complete investigations for a rehearing and the indictment of the seven freed men.

Action of the local grand jury followed the same pattern as that followed by a Johnston County Grand Jury in the Fourth Judicial District late last year in the second of North Carolina's two 1946 lynchings.

YOUTH LED MOB

Solicitor W. Jack Hooks made the presentation to the Johnston County Grand Jury, after a mob of whites led by a 16-year-old boy, had slain Dan Sanders, a 27-year-old veteran and father of two children, in Cleveland Township, not far from Smithfield on Nov. 18, 1946. The grand jury failed to return a true bill, just as the Northampton County Grand Jury did in the Bush case.

The Sanders' lynching in November followed the slaying of another veteran, J. C. Farmer, at Bailey, near Wilson, N. C., on Aug. 16, 1946. Bush escaped from his would-be lynchers.

The action of Governor Cherry was hailed as a determined effort to "save the face" of the State, after criticism had been leveled at the local grand jury from all parts of the nation. Governor Cherry was quick to reprove the local grand jury for what he termed "a gross miscarriage of justice."

REBUKE Sat. 8-16-47

The Governor rebuked the local grand jury in a blistering statemen in which he said:

"It is not the duty of a grand jury to pass on the facts, or on the innocence or guilt of those charged with a crime, but it is the simple duty of such a body to determine if there is available evidence that should be heard. The gr. jury does not even have to consider the question of reasonable doubt."

"MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE"

The Governor continued: "In the face of a confession from one of those charged, a miscarriage of justice is indicated when this grand jury did not see fit to find a true bill." Governor Cherry himself a lawyer of many years' practice as the law partner of N. C. Congressman A. L. Bulwinkle of Gastonia, N. C., the Governor's residence.

The Governor indicated that he would call in Superior Court Judge J. Paul Frizzelle of Snow Hill, N. C., to sit as committing magistrate when the re-hearing takes place. He told 3,000 delegates to a Wilmington church conference that Judge Frizzelle had "top priority" on the case. It will be several weeks before the re-hearing takes place.

Sat-8-16-47

When the grand jury made its report here, broad smiles broke out on the faces of the seven accused men and they left the courtroom grinning. The white woman whom Bush is alleged to have tried to rape was also in the room at the time. Bush also was released after the same grand jury failed to return a true bill aginst him for the alleged rape.

RAY OF HOPE IN NORTH CAROLINA

30 9 N.C.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill. Sat. 8-23-47

Every once in a while a beacon light of progress shoots up out of the South even in the face of the perennial terror and subjugation in that dismaying part of the land.

We are becoming more familiar with the sight of occasional officials doing unexpected things, promising things.

The latest is the act of Governor R. Gregg Cherry in condemning the failure of the Northampton County Grand Jury for its failure to indict seven white men charged with a lynching attempt upon 24-year-old Godwin Bush. The Governor called such failure a "miscarriage of justice" and declared he would "instruct a Superior Court judge to convene a court, sit as a committing magistrate, give thorough investigation to this matter, hear all available evidence and commit those charged for trial in an adjoining county." Sat. 8-23-47

We remember the recent token trial when twenty-six white men were found not guilty in the lynching of a Negro in that section of the country and at first sight we could feel pessimistic about Governor Cherry's action if we wanted to believe the other case was a precedent.

But we do not believe the other case was a precedent. We prefer to believe in Governor Cherry's sincerity. We prefer to believe that white men will yet be brought to trial in the South for crimes against Negroes and that white juries and investigating groups will bring in just verdicts.

We congratulate Governor Cherry.

7604

A Ceremony Ill-Timed At Jackson Trial

Journal and Guide Norfolk, Virginia. Sat-8-9-47

IT WOULD take a lot of research to discover a precedent, under the same circumstances, for the ceremony that took place Monday in the Jackson (N. C.) courtroom, where a special grand jury was considering charges against white men accused of nearly committing a lynching and another man, a Negro, who "frightened" a white woman in a town made tense by an earlier rape case, got picked up as a result as a suspect in an attempted rape, and only by the kindness of an all-merciful God escaped from the clutches of those who would have mob-murdered him.

In the Superior Court of Northampton county, described more than once during impassioned speeches of tradition-loving natives as "this temple of justice," the processes of justice were interrupted for more than an hour while important men of the community and state orated about the South's flower of womanhood, its sacred traditions, the "horrors" of Reconstruction, the valor of its men of arms during the "War Between the States," and the great qualities of General MATT WHITTAKER RANSOM, whose portrait had been presented to the county by his descendants. 8/9/47

It was the unveiling ceremony, oddly enough scheduled during the midst of a special term of court called to consider the two things most calculated to arouse southern passions and to inspire violence and a disregard for the judicial processes characteristic of "temples of justice," that gave the selected orators their chance to turn the courtroom into a forum for reminding, however much by indirection, the citizenry of the county, and very possibly some of the men who will as jurors decide the facts in the trials, that there are some things "we southerners" put above the Constitution. Journal+Guide

To anyone experienced at all in the psychology of communities tensed and trigger-fingered by the incitation of passions stirred by womanhood violated or periled, the thought came that, however justifiable the occasion for honoring a great man of the state and county, the mid-day period of such a trial—with the defendant against the white woman's charges in the courtroom and the seven accused of attempting to take the law into their own hands freely walking about and talking to their townsmen, this was not the proper time and place for sentimentality, extolling of regional traditions, and florid references to womanhood, symbolized by the charming and respected female descendants and toddling grandchild of the beloved portrait subject.

Norfolk, Va. Sat. 8/9/47

Perhaps the ceremony was scheduled for this date before the BUSH case was docketed for August 4. It seems unlikely that such a coincidence did occur. Even if that were so, some foresighted men of courage might, with good grace and deep insight, have insisted that postponement until a later date would be in the interest of equal justice, normal execution of judicial processes, and preservation of the good name of the state and county.

Instead the sponsors went through with their plans for inviting a member of the United States Senate from the state to make the dedicatory address, had him presented by a state senator who was also the defense lawyer for the accused members of the mob, and had another leading fellow citizen to accept the portrait on behalf of the county in a stirring speech. Journal+Guide Norfolk, Va.

It was a fine and moving address. But such an occasion, we submit, was not best chosen for the things that stirred men's feelings even in admiration of a great figure in the state's history. Such admiration could easily be translated into hatred for others and a sense of justification for fellow white men about to stand charges openly and legally brought against them. Sat. 8/9/47

The calm and learned judge seemed none too happy in his role as chairman of the unveiling ceremonies being carried out on such a day. Perhaps it was a duty thrust upon him, but during the speeches his mind must have run back over his words, spoken a few hours earlier to the grand jury to whose charge he committed the evidence against BUSH and the mob-members: "You must have an eye, intellect, and a conscience singled toward the performance of your duties . . . They'll be holding court here for maybe thousands of years and the part that you or I play, if we are worthy of our forbears, will not reflect dishonor upon us."

Only men of high character, exceptional caliber, and stable emotions would overcome the appeal, however indirect and incidental, imposed upon them by the thoughts inspired by the flowery speeches uttered within the walls of the Jackson courtroom Monday. It strikes us that it might even be grounds for a mistrial or a change of venue. Perhaps the attorneys concerned are themselves pondering on this thought even now. Well they might.

New Action Looms Against 7 Freed in Attempted Lynching

Fla. Times-Union Jacksonville, Fla. Sun 8-17-47

JACKSON, N. C., Aug. 16. (UP)—Sheriff J. C. Stephenson said tonight he had rearrested seven white men freed last week by the Northampton County Grand Jury in the attempted lynching of a young negro, while in Raleigh Gov. Gregg Cherry ordered a preliminary hearing for the men in Jackson September 2. They were released on $2,500 bond. 30g

The warrants were sworn out in Snow Hill by Superior Judge J. Paul Frizzelle. Sun. 8-17-47

Cherry, scoring last week's Northampton County Grand Jury action as a miscarriage of justice, dusted off an 1893 anti-lynch law which requires a solicitor to present the facts of a lynching to grand juries of all neighboring counties until mob members are brought to trial.

The Governor left Frizzelle and Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler, who headed last week's court when the Grand Jury refused to indict the seven accused white men from Rich Square, N. C., free to pick the county for their trial if the preliminary hearing uncovers enough evidence for another Grand Jury hearing. Sun. 8-17-47

The men were first charged with kidnaping, conspiracy and breaking and entering a jail with intent to kill or injure a prisoner.

Tyler said the kidnaping charge, which carries a mandatory life sentence in North Carolina on conviction, could not be pressed against the men under the 54-year-old law. He said they would be charged on the jailbreaking and conspiracy counts, which bear terms of two to 15 years. Sun 8-17-47

'LYNCHING' REHEARING SET

30g

North Carolina Governor Acts in Case of 7 Freed by Jury

Times-New York N.Y.

RALEIGH, N. C., Aug. 16 (U.P.)—Gov. Gregg Cherry, acting under a 52-year-old state anti-lynching law, today ordered a preliminary hearing for seven white men recently freed by a grand jury in the attempted lynching of a Negro. Sun. 8-17-47

The Governor acted after the Northampton County Grand Jury had failed to indict alleged members of a small mob who took Godwin Bush, the Negro, from the Jackson, N. C., jail, where he was held on a charge of attempting to rape a white woman, on May 23.

The hearing will be held before Judge J. Paul Frizzelle in Jackson Sept. 2. If it develops probable cause for prosecution, the men will be brought to trial before a jury in some county adjoining Northampton.

Seven Face Judge In Lynch Try Case

Montgomery Ala. Advertiser Sun 8-31-47 30g

JACKSON, N. C., Aug. 30.—(U.P.)—Seven white men charged with seizing a Negro from jail in a thwarted lynching but cleared by a Grand Jury face a superior court judge Tuesday in a special hearing ordered by Gov. Gregg Cherry.

The men will appear before Judge J. Paul Frizelle, whom Cherry ordered to sit as a committing magistrate after a Grand Jury refused to indict the men Aug. 4 for the attempting lynching of Godwin (Buddy) Bush.

The Grand Jury also freed the young Negro sawmill worker on a charge of assault with intent to criminally attack a young white stenographer at nearby Rich Square, N. C. Sun 8-31-47

Cherry criticized the freeing of the white men Aug. 5 and ordered the special hearing upon a seldom-used law giving the governor extraordinary powers in lynch attempts.

The men originally were charged with kidnaping and two lesser offenses. District Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler said the kidnaping charges could not be made to stick. Tuesday's hearing will be on charges of breaking and entering a jail with intent to injure a prisoner. Conviction on the charges would carry a three to 15-year imprisonment.

SOUTHEAST STATES

N.Y. Times, N.Y.

Governor Cherry Supported In Fight on Mob Rule

Sun. Aug. 24-47

By GEORGE HATCHER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTA, Aug. 23—Popular reaction against mob violence has been mounting heavily in the South in support of Gov. R. Gregg Cherry of North Carolina, who recently denounced a grand jury's refusal to indict, and moved vigorously to bring about the rearrest of seven white men in the attempted lynching of a 22-year-old Negro in Northampton County, N. C., May 24. 30g

Governor Cherry, acting under authority of a statute which applies only to lynching cases, has assigned Superior Court Judge J. Paul Frizzelle to sit as a committing magistrate at an open hearing in the court house at Jackson, N. C., Sept. 2. At that time charges of "conspiracy to break and enter a jail, with intent to kill or injure a prisoner," will be aired against the seven men. The law provides that the case then may be taken to an adjoining county for grand jury action and for trial if one develops.

"The Governor's action was entirely proper and is one for which he deserves commendation," declares The Raleigh News and Observer.

"Public opinion does not condone lynching or mob violence and is in agreement with Governor Cherry in viewing the (grand jury) action as a miscarriage of justice and a reflection on the state," asserted The Charlotte Observer.

The case grew out of the removal of Godwin Bush from the jail at Jackson by a group of armed, masked white men. The youth, who was accused of attempting criminal assault on a young white woman, broke loose from his captors and fled as one member of the mob shot at him. Two days later he surrendered to county authorities and Federal agents, who took him to the Central Prison at Raleigh for safekeeping. Soon afterward, the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced it had obtained a confession, and arrest of the seven white men followed. At that time the defendants were accused of kidnapping in addition to the present charge. Sun 8-24-47

The same grand jury which declined to indict the white men also returned a "no bill" in the attempted criminal assault charge against the Negro.

30 9

Atlanta Daily World

The Only Reason

The Governor of North Carolina, R. Gregg Cherry, is humiliated by the action of a Northhamption County grand jury in failing to indict the seven men, accused in the attempted lynching of Godwin Buddy Bush last May 23. He says the grand jury action is a shame upon the whole state. Yet, it is perfectly clear to us that as long as the Federal Government takes a hands off policy against the onslaught of lynching, it is going to be difficult to expect a jury to return guilty verdicts when they have to go back and live among the same people, the majority of whom will organize against their local businesses in one way or another. The cure for such an evil is to provide protection for men who face fearlessly lynchers and would-be lynchers. We are satisfied in this as in all of the other notorious cases of miscarriages of justice that there is no likelihood of prosecution until the Government takes the lead. Atlanta Ga.

We agree with the governor that a serious crime was committed. The mob actually took Bush from the jail and tried to lynch him. The only reason why he was not lynched was because Bush, by some streak of good fortune before the lynching could be completed. Sat. 8-16-47

Bush, in an interview last week with an NNPA writer said that he was taking no more chance. By that he made it clear that he was not a bit afraid, but that he was not going to hang around the little town at night because it was possible for too many things to happen. He knows what it feels like for a group of blood thirsty mobsters to lay hands on a Negro. And the fact that they hear that this is the one is all that matters. It may be the wrong man, but to them it is a Negro and in that instance, they are satisfied. We expect lynching to cease one day. But not volun-

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Lynch Leader, Jailer Held for Trial in Godwin Bush Case

P.M. New York, N.Y.

Wed. 9-3-47

30 9

N.C.

JACKSON, N. C.

Joe Lee Cunningham, admitted leader in a lynching that didn't come off, and A. W. Edwards, jail-keeper who permitted a band of masked white men to take Godwin Bush, 22-year-old Negro from his cell here, have been held for trial in adjoining Warren County.

Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, reconsidering the case at the order of Gov. R. Gregg Cherry, freed six men jointly accused with Cunningham of breaking and entering a jail, after ruling that a statement signed by Cunningham for FBI agents could be used as evidence against him only.

Identified By Bush

Cunningham, assistant manager of a theater at nearby Rich Square, also was identified by Bush as the man who came to his cell with a gun in his hand and said:

"Come on down, nigger; let's go."

Jailer Edwards was arrested on a bench warrant charging conspiracy in breaking and entering a jail and with aiding and abetting, after he testified that there had been no force or threats against him. Wed. 9-3-47

Had Pistols

"Those men had pistols; I was scared, that's why," Edwards said, when asked why he released Bush to the masked band which let the prisoner slip through their fingers in the darkness a few yards from the jail.

Judge Frizzelle spoke sharply to Edwards, quoting Cunningham's confession which said the would-be lynchers were "scared half to death" during the proceedings.

"You led the men to Bush's cell and pointed him out," he told Edwards. Wed 9-3-47

Must Answer

"Not once did you ask or beg them to desist. I couldn't leave this courtroom with my own self respect if I did not call you to answer these charges."

Frizzelle told Cunningham's six co-defendants that "the only reason you men are allowed ot go free is because of the incompetence of Cunningham's statement as it concerns you." Wed. 9-3-47.

Gov. Cherry ordered the special hearing under a 50-year-old State anti-lynching law, instructing Judge Frizzelle to determine if there had been a "miscarriage of justice" when the Northampton County grand jury failed to indict the seven men. Judge Frizzelle ordered trial of Cunningham and Edwards at Warrenton, about 42 miles west of Jackson, on Sept. 15.

Defendant In Lynch Try Case Bound To Grand Jury

30 9 N.C.

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser Wed. 9-3-47

JACKSON, N. C., Sept. 2.—(AP)—A Superior Court judge today dismissed charges against six of seven white men accused in the attempted lynching of a Negro but had the Northampton County jailer arrested and bound the seventh defendant over to a grand jury.

The action was taken by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, who sat today as a special committing magistrate on Gov. R. Gregg Cherry's commission, after the Northampton County jury last month found no cause for action against the seven.

The judge, in freeing six of the accused men, ordered that Joe Cunningham, assistant theater manager at nearby Rich Square where race tension has run high this year, be held for action by the Warren County grand jury on Sept. 15. Warrenton, county seat of Warren County, is approximately 42 miles west of this northeastern North Carolina community. Wed. 9-3-47

Arrest of A. W. Edwards, elderly jailer, from whom 22-year-old Godwin (Buddy) Bush was taken by an armed and masked band last May 23 came as a surprise move in a hushed and crowded courtroom. It followed testimony by Edwards today that there had been no force or threats against him when the Negro was taken from jail.

Judge Frizzelle stopped the six men who were freed just as they arose to leave the court room. "Before you go," the judge said, "I want to make this observation. This court is passing only on probable cause. It is perfectly apparent. . . that the only reason you are allowed to go free is because of the incompetence of Mr. Cunningham's confession as it concerns you. If the statement had been made in the presence of the other six, it would have been admitted—or if it had been made before the accomplishment of the conspiracy, it would have been admitted."

In advising Edwards of the bench warrant against him, Judge Frizzelle said the jailer had done nothing to prevent the masked men from taking Bush. "Not once did you beg them to desist. . . . You led them into the Negro's cell and pointed him out. I couldn't leave this courtroom with my self-respect intact if I did not hold you under a bench warrant." Wed. 9-3-47

Jailer Edwards was arrested by Sheriff J. C. Stephenson on a bench warrant issued by Judge Frizzelle. It charged him with conspiracy in breaking and entering a jail and with aiding and abetting in the breaking and entering. The jailer's case will also be considered by the Warren County grand jury.

30 9

Cunningham is charged with conspiracy to break and enter a jail and with breaking and entering a jail with intent to kill or injure Bush, the same counts on which all seven of the original defendants were charged. Each of the two counts carries a maximum imprisonment of 15 years. All of the seven defendants earlier today had pleaded not guilty when the charges were read.

Those freed by Judge Frizzelle's action today are: Robert Vann, Russell Bryant, Glenn Collier, Linwood and Gilbert Bryant, brothers; and W. C. Cooper.

Cunningham and the jailer were released under $5,000 bond. Some 20 men cluttered around the two defendants to post their bonds.

N.C.

Earlier this afternoon defense counsel asked for a non-suit against all seven men on the conspiracy charge on the grounds that Cunningham's confession was incompetent as concerned the other six. Wed. 9-3-47

Defense counsel also contended that, as a result. Cunningham was left alone with the conspiracy charge and therefore could not conspire with himself. Judge Frizzelle, however, overruled the motion as to Cunningham after sustaining it as to the other six.

Bush identified Cunningham today. He testified at the hearing that Cunningham came to his cell in the pre-dawn darkness last May 23 and said:

"Come on down, nigger, let's go."

Bush, who fled from his abductors, hid in the woods for 48 hours and then surrendered to officers, said three men came to his cell, two of them carrying pistols. The 22-year-old Negro said that only an hour before he was taken. Russell Bryant, another of the defendants, accompanied by Rich Square Police Chief Frank Outland, visited the jail.

7605

Jailer Admits Letting Mob In County Jail

30 g

Journal + Guide

By P. BERNARD YOUNG JR.
Special to Journal and Guide

JACKSON, N. C.—The defense in the special hearing for the seven white men accused of attempting to lynch Godwin "Buddy" Bush—on which charges a special grand jury set them temporarily free on August 5 — lost the first two important initial rounds in Northampton county Superior Court here Tuesday afternoon. Norfolk, Va.

Meanwhile, Jailer Wallace T. Edwards testified—to the obvious utter amazement of Judge J. Paul Frizzelle—that he delivered Bush to members of the mob without being threatened manhandled, or intimidated by any show of force directed at him. 9-6-47

On the witness stand, in response to questions put to him by the judge and Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler, Edwards explained merely that "I was scared."

KNEW NONE OF MASKED MEN Sat.

When the judge took over the questioning, Edwards insisted he did not know then any of the masked and armed men involved in the jail delivery, and could not now identify any of them.

The defense setbacks were:

(a) Failure to have applied here fully the legal strategy primarily responsible for the acquittal of the 30 odd confessed lynching participants in the recent celebrated mob trial at Greenville, S. C. 30 g

(b) The admission by the court of Bush's statement to FBI investigators, in which he positively identified Joe Cunningham as the leader of the near-lynching. 9-N.C. 6-46

(c) The admission, over the vigorous objection of defense counsel of the signed 10-page statement by Cunningham confessing guilty participation in the near tragedy.

(d) The admission, again over violent defense protest, of the dramatic, open-court identification of big and husky Russell Bryant as another of the three men of the mob who took Bush from his cell early on the morning of May 23.

MENTIONED OTHER MEN

In Cunningham's statement he mentioned all or nearly all of the other six men accused with him.

However, Solicitor Tyler emphatically advised the court that he would not introduce Cunninghams statement except as it served as evidence against him alone. SAT.

He evidently had in mind the fiasco resulting in Greenville when the prosecution there sought, on the other hand, to make the confessions apply against all implicated therein.

During the first several hours it appeared that the prosecution stung by Governor R. Gregg Cherry's outraged assertion that the earlier no true bill of the grand jury was "a miscarriage of justice," was going to vigorously press the case against the seven accused men.

SOLICITOR WORKING ALONE

Solicitor Tyler was working single-handedly for the state. The defendents were represented by Archie Gay, Buxton Midgette, both of Jackson, and Buck Weaver of Rich Square.

Witnesses heard up to the recess Tuesday at 1:15 were Bush, who was on the stand for 35 minutes; Edwards, for 28 minutes; his wife, briefly; and P. B. Beacham, of the FBI, who was on the stand for 70 minutes.

The court recessed at 1:15 and reconvened at 2:30 Tuesday.

JUDGE FREES 6 OF 7 IN SEIZING OF NEGRO

Times
New York, N.Y.

Holds One for Carolina Grand Jury—Jailer Is Accused of Aiding Break-In, Arrested

Wed. 9-3-47

30 g

JACKSON, N. C., Sept. 2 (AP)—A superior court judge today dismissed charges against six of seven white men accused in the attempted lynching of a Negro but had the Northampton County jailer arrested and bound the seventh defendant over to a grand jury. The action was taken by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, who sat today as a special committing magistrate on Governor R. Gregg Cherry's commission, after the Northampton County grand jury last month found no cause for action against the seven.

The judge, in freeing six of the accused men, ordered that Joe Cunningham, assistant theatre manager at near-by Rich Square, where race tension has run high this year, be held for action by the Warren County grand jury on Sept. 15. Warrenton, county seat of Warren County, is about forty-two miles west of this northeastern North Carolina community.

Arrest of A. W. Edwards, elderly jailer, from whom 22-year-old Godwin (Buddy) Bush was taken by an armed and masked band last May 23, came as a surprise move in a hushed and crowded courtroom. It followed testimony by Edwards today that there had been no force or threats against him when the Negro was taken from jail.

The judge admitted into evidence a purported confession which the state claims was made by Cunningham. The statement was admitted as evidence against Cunningham only and not against the six other accused men.

Judge Frizzelle stopped the six men who were freed just as they arose to leave the court room. "Before you go," the judge said, "I want to make this observation. This court is passing only on probable cause. It is perfectly apparent that the only reason you are allowed to go free is because of the incompetence of Mr. Cunningham's confession as it concerns you. If the statement had been made in the presence of the other six, it would have been admitted." Wed. 9-3-47

Jailer Edwards was arrested by Sheriff J. C. Stephenson on a bench warrant issued by Judge Frizzelle. It charged him with conspiracy in breaking and entering a jail and with aiding and abetting in the breaking and entering. The jailer's case will also be considered by the Warren County grand jury. 30 a (1) Wed. 9-3-47

Cunningham is charged with conspiracy to break and enter a jail and with breaking and entering a jail with intent to kill or injure Bush, the same counts on which all seven of the original defendants were charged. Each of the two counts carries a maximum imprisonment of fifteen years. All of the seven defendants earlier today had pleaded not guilty when the charges were read.

Those freed by Judge Frizzelle's action today are: Robert Vann, Russell Bryant, Glenn Collier, Linwood and Gilbert Bryant, brothers; and W. C. Cooper. 30 a (1)

Bush identified Cunningham today. He testified at the hearing that Cunningham came to his cell in the pre-dawn darkness last May 23 and said:

"Come on down, nigger, let's go." N.C. Wed. 9-3-47

Bush, who fled from his abductors, hid in the woods for forty-eight hours and then surrendered to officers. Times.

New York, N.Y.

JACKSON, N. C., Sept. 2 (UP)—Bush could not identify any others besides Cunningham among the seven defendants and said he counted only five in the band that took him from the jail. Wed. 9-3-47

How to Stop Lynching

Pittsburgh Courier

Spurred by the attitude of Governor Cherry, North Carolina is demonstrating how lynching may be stopped throughout the South if other governors follow his example. 30 g

Governor Cherry was properly outraged when the grand jury or Northampton County whitewashed the seven men charged with the attempted lynching of a colored youth, Godwin (Buddy) Bush, and he delegated Superior Court Judge Frizzelle to act as committing magistrate to investigate the outrage and to determine if there were probable cause against the defendants.

Pittsburgh, Pa

Judge Frizzelle went to work last week and after investigation he released six of the accused, but directed that an assistant theatre manager, Joe Cunningham, be held for action by the Warren County Grand Jury, and in a surprise move ordered the arrest of the jailer, A. W. Edwards, who turned Bush over to the mob without putting up any opposition. Sat. 9-13-47

It long has been obvious that the way to stop lynching is to grab the ringleaders like the aforementioned Cunningham and officials like the jailer and punish them for their acts.

The mob, wherever it may be, is blind, and helpless without a leader, and cannot take prisoners from jails unless permitted by the jailers.

Arrest and punish the mob leaders and the negligent officials, and a damper is immediately put on the mob.

There have been so many lynchings of colored and white citizens in this country and particularly in the South because these chief culprits enjoyed a strange immunity.

Indict them, arrest them, try them and sentence them and the lynching evil will soon be gone with the wind.

There is nothing more discouraging to lynchers than a stiff jail sentence.

It is to be hoped that the two men cited in North Carolina will be properly and speedily punished.

JUDGE BLASTS LYNCH MOB

Hold Bush Jailer And Gang Head

30 g N.C. Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill.

JACKSON, N. C.—(NNPA)—Superior Court Judge J. Paul Frizelle, sitting as a special committee magistrate at the request of Gov. R. Gregg Cherry, last Tuesday "reluctantly" dismissed charges against six of the seven men accused of the attempted lynching of Godwin "Buddy" Bush.

Dismissal resulted from the incompetency of the confession made by the seventh defendant, Joe Cunningham, confessed leader of the mob, who was ordered held for the action to the Warren County grand jury September 15. Sat. 9-13-47

Climax of the hearing, which amazed the packed courtroom, was the arrest of A. W. Edwards, ordered by Judge Frizelle when he heard that the Northampton county jailer had failed to act in any way to protect Bush, his prisoner. Edwards is charged with conspiracy in permitting the mob to enter the jail and remove Bush. 30 a (1)

Arrest of Edwards was ordered following his testimony that he delivered his prisoner to the mob last May 23 without being threatened, manhandled or intimidated by the mob. Sat. 9-13-47

The hearing here last week was the second attempt to prosecute seven residents of Rich Square on charges growing out of the attempted lynching of Bush. An 18-man Northampton County grand jury refused to indict the men August 5 and this resulted in the Governor's intervention and the holding of a special investigation.

Judge Scores Defendants

Judge Frizelle in freeing the six culprits said: 30 g N.C.

"It is perfectly apparent that the only reason you are allowed to go free is because of the incompetence of Mr. Cunningham's confession as it concern you." Sat

The Judge told Edwards, in informing him of a bench warrant for arrest that he had done nothing to prevent the masked men from taking Bush. "Not once did you beg them to desist. You led them to the Negro's cell and pointed him out. I couldn't leave this court room with my self respect intact if I did not hold you under bench warrant." 9-13-47

Carries 15-Year Penalties

Cunningham is charged with conspiracy to break and enter a jail, and with breaking and entering said jail with intent to kill or injure Bush. Each carries a miximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment.

Cunningham's confession, entered as evidence by the Judge despite protest of defense counsel, came from FBI agent P. B. Beacham of Charlotte, N. C. Although it mentioned Robert Vann and Glenn Collier as having accompanied Cunningham to Bush's cell, it was admissable as evidence against any person except Cunningham due to a legal technicality, a fact which caused Judge Frizelle's extreme reluctance to free the other six men. They are: 9-13-47

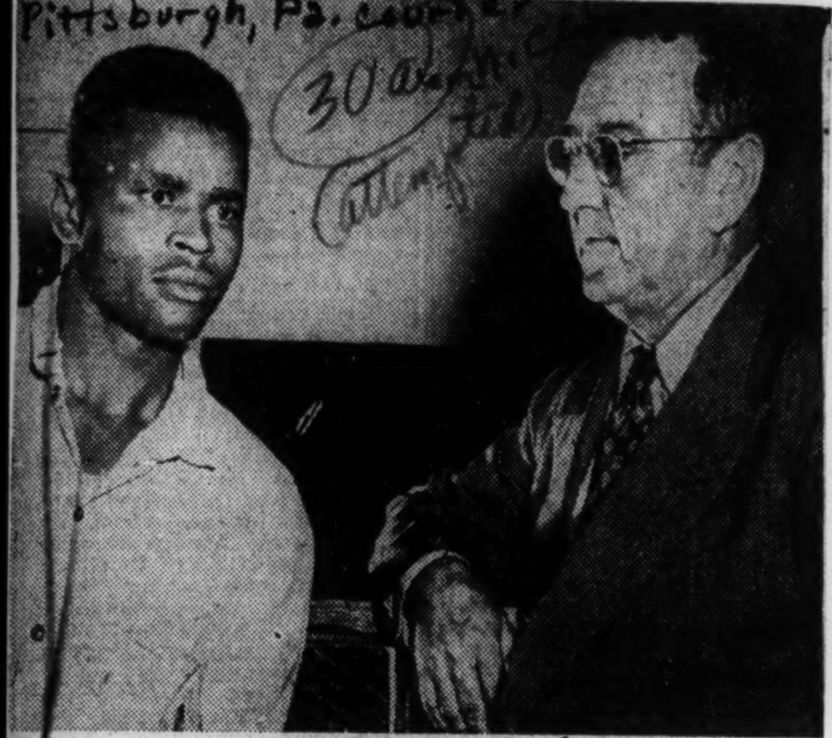
Robert Vann, Russell Bryant, Glenn Collier, and Linwood and Gilbert Bryant, brothers.

30g 1947

North Carolina

7606

Pittsburgh, Pa. courier



Miracle Escapee— Only the quick wits of Godwin (Buddy) Bush, left, kept him alive when he was taken from the Jackson (N. C.) jail by masked white men recently. Now safely in custody of the FBI, and in the Central Prison, Raleigh, N. C., Bush talks with Warden Hugh Wilson, right, of the State Prison. Further moves concerning him are not yet decided. His case rocked the Nation.—International News Photo.

Lynching Feared As Mob Gets Rape-Attempt Suspect

Jackson, N. C., May 23 (AP)—A young Negro prisoner was taken at gun point from Northampton County Jail before dawn today by a band of masked, white men and Sheriff A. C. Stephenson said, "I am afraid that a lynching has taken place."

Sheriff's deputies searched the Roanoke River area west of here in search of the Negro, Godwin "Buddy" Bush, 24, but reported no success.

He was arrested last night in Rich Square, a small community 12 miles away, and charged with attempt rape of a whit woman, identified by Stephenson as Mrs. Dorothy Allen Bryant, a stenographer at Rich Square.

Northhampton is a largely agricultural county of about 30,000 persons with a race ratio of approximately two Negroes to each white. It is in the Northeastern part of North Carolina.

Schoolboys Identify Bush.

Jailer E. W. Edwards said he locked up his prisoners at 9 o'clock and went to bed. "I heard a knock on the door and I answered it," he said. "A half-dozen masked men, all armed with guns, met me. They went through the jail and took this nigger. They told me that was their price."

The young woman reportedly was en route to a movie when she was chased by a Negro. High-school boys, hearing her screams, went to her aid. The boys said they recognized Bush after his capture sometime later by Patrolman Frank Outland at Rich Square.

Outland said Bush had admitted being at the scene of the alleged assault, but denied attempting to molest the young woman.

Investigation Ordered.

Governor R. Gregg Cherry, in Raleigh, ordered State Bureau of Investigation agents and highway patrolmen to the area.

"I will not condone lynchings or play of this kind as long as I am Governor," Cherry said. "I have instructed all of the State agencies to investigate this immediately to see if there is any evidence of foul play."

The S.B.I. assigned Special Agent Howard Pierce, former Raleigh chief of police, to head the State's official investigation.

Outland said late today that about a dozen State, County, and highway-patrol officers had joined the search in the Jackson-Rich Square area.

"They'll search all night, if necessary, to find Bush," he said.

Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., said if the Negro had been lynched it would be North Carolina's first lynching since 1941. It would be Northampton's first lynching since 1902.

Masked Band Seizes Negro From N. C. Jail

News and Courier
Charleston S. C.

JACKSON, N. C., May 23. (U.P.)—A masked band of armed white men entered the Northampton county jail here today and seized a negro. Officers believed he was lynched.

Governor Gregg Cherry in Raleigh ordered the state bureau of investigation to send agents to this town near the Virginia state line and told SBI Director Walter Anderson to "spare no effort" to bring the mob to justice.

But tonight, many hours after the negro was seized, officers had not found his body nor identified any member of the mob.

The gang, according to Jailer A. W. Edwards, banged on his door about 2 a. m. and demanded that he surrender Godwin (Buddy) Bush, 24, who had been arrested four hours earlier on charges of attempting [illegible] a white woman.

5-24-47

The men were masked, Edwards said, and some of them were waving weapons. He did not recognize any of the men, he said.

A gruff leader stated the mob's purpose.

"We want Bush," he said.

Edwards gave the men the key to the lockup where Bush was asleep and they quickly took him out and hustled away.

As soon as the men were gone, the jailer called Sheriff A. W. Stephenson, who organized a posse. Surrounding farmlands and woods along the Roanoke bottomlands failed to turn up the quarry.

Bush had been arrested four hours earlier at nearby Rich Square, N. C. on charges of attempting to rape a young white woman. She said she was accosted near a warehouse.

News of the incident spread fast through the town of Jackson, a small county seat farming center with a population of 1,200 in the rich truck and tobacco country of Northeastern North Carolina.

Because the mob and their victim "melted away" without a trace, local residents believed that the negro's body may have been dumped into the Roanoke river at the edge of town.

Experienced rivermen said that the currents of the Roanoke might carry a man's body many miles downstream before washing it out on a sandbar.

Cherry denounced the mob's action as "disgraceful" and said "this sort of thing cannot be tolerated in North Carolina."

The jailer said only three men, all carrying revolvers, actually entered the jail. The others remained outside.

He said they ordered him to lock the jail door from the inside when they left and warned him not to spread the alarm.

Bush's arrest was the second case of its type in the county within the last few weeks. Another negro, Willie Cherry, was arrested several weeks ago on charges of raping a white woman at Rich Square.

Three Negroes Held In Carolina Prisons On Attack Charges

News
Birmingham Ala.

Suspect Taken From Jail Escapes Captors, Surrenders To FBI

5-26-47

RALEIGH, N. C., May 26—(AP)—Three young Negro men are being held in penitentiaries in the Carolinas today on charges of attacks on white women. One of them outran almost certain death at the hands of a white lynch mob and then hid without food for 48 hours in a pine thicket in Northeast North Carolina before surrendering to the protective custody of the FBI.

Billie Simmons, 24, was locked in Central Prison at Raleigh early this morning for safekeeping after his arrest in Clinton, 50 miles southeast of Raleigh, on a charge of rape in connection with an assault upon a white woman.

This came only a few hours after still another Negro, Willie Pooler, 20, charged with raping an elderly white woman at Darlington, S. C., was rushed into safekeeping to the South Carolina Penitentiary at Columbia.

ONLY LAST WEDNESDAY a jury in Greenville, S. C., had acquitted 28 white men of murder charges for the lynching of Negro Willie Earle, who was taken at gunpoint from a jail at Pickens where he had been held in connection with the fatal stabbing of a taxi driver.

In the predawn hours of last Friday morning an armed, masked band of white men seized Negro Godwin "Buddy" Bush, 24, from the Northampton County Jail in Jackson, where he was being held on charges of attempting to rape a young married white woman.

They carried him to one of four waiting automobiles. Bush gambled, wrenched himself free and fled into the protective darkness.

A mob member fired one shot and missed.

Late yesterday after some 75 law enforcement officers had spent two days combing the woods for Bush—or his body, since no one was certain he had escaped—a Negro preacher called Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler.

5-26-47 man

BUSH WAS READY to surrender, the preacher said, if Tyler would guarantee he would not be harmed.

Tyler and two FBI agents went to an appointed place and found the Negro. They brought him here to the prison last night.

The solicitor would permit no interviews and gave out only the bare facts of the surrender. However, it was learned here that Bush had remained in the woods until early yesterday, finally going to the home of a friend after being without food since his escape.

5-26-47

Seized Negro Believed Free In Carolina

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

5-25-47

As Clark Seeks Way To Enter Case Of Lynching

JACKSON, N. C., May 24.—(AP)—There were strong indications tonight, officers said, that a terrified Negro, apparently facing death at the hands of armed, masked white men, made a desperate breakaway from his captors and sped into the pre-dawn darkness Friday as a bullet whistled past his head.

Developments today gave rise to a theory that the frightened Negro, Godwin (Buddy) Bush, gambled with death, and won; that a bullet fired after him by one of his abductors missed its mark and that the band who forcibly took him from Northampton County jail here yesterday morning, fearful of creating too much of a stir, abandoned their plans and left the scene quickly.

Previously, it had been thought likely that the Negro, held on a charge of attempted criminal attack of a young married white woman in Rich Square, a tiny community 12 miles away, had been lynched. A two-day search by some three-score Federal, state and county officers has brought no trace of him—or the white men who abducted him.

Rosa Howard, a Negro woman who lives across the street from the Jackson jail, told Solicitor R. Tyler she saw a man break away from a crowd in front of the jail early Friday morning and run across a yard next to her house. She said, in an affadavit, that one man fired a single shot in the direction of the fleeing man and then entered one of several parked automobiles, which immediately drove away.

The woman was unable to say whether the man who ran past her house was a Negro. She also said she could not identify any of the persons gathered around the jail.

Jour. 5-25-47

A reporter found a bullet embedded in a small wooden shack directly across from the jail and a footprint in the wet earth, apparently made by a running man. The bullet and a cast of the footprint were sent today to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington. The FBI had at least four agents here today.

FBI Seizes and Guards Negro Who Fled North Carolina Mob

New York Times

30g N.C.

By The United Press.

WASHINGTON, May 25—The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced tonight that it has taken into custody Godwin Bush, the missing North Carolina Negro who was taken from his Jackson (N. C.) cell last week by a lynch mob. Mon. 5-26-47

It had been feared that the 25-year-old Bush had been killed. He was taken from his cell last Friday after his arrest for an alleged attack on a white woman.

The FBI said that Bush was being questioned by FBI agents and by the county solicitor of Northampton County, N. C., to ascertain whether any of his civil rights have been violated.

FBI headquarters here said that they could reveal no other details. A spokesman said he could not say how Bush broke away from the mob or how the FBI managed to catch up with him.

The announcement ended the mystery of Bush's disappearance. Earlier today, State police authorities in North Carolina admitted they had no leads as to his whereabouts. They told newsmen they were of the opinion that he had been killed by the lynch mob and his body dumped into the swollen waters of the Roanoke River, or else that he was alive and in hiding.

District Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler was one of those officials who believed Bush escaped from the mob in front of the red brick jain and bolted into the darkness to safety. He refused to discuss details, but a search for Bush's body in the near-by woods was called off, on the assumption that Tyler might be right. Mon. 5-26-47

Before the FBI's surprise announcement, the only evidence that Bush had escaped the lynching was the statement of Rosa Howard, a young Negro woman, who told police she saw a young man fleeing from an armed band with another figure shooting at him.

A reporter, acting on her tip, recovered a bullet. It was turned over to the FBI for laboratory checks.

30 N.C.

The young man's family had not heard a word from him, and the FBI refused to disclose whether he had been allowed to communicate with him.

Police Chief Frank Outland of Jackson, N. C., and Sheriff J. C. Stephenson said fully fifteen minutes after the FBI announcement that they had not been informed of Bush's recapture. Times

Bush's abduction from his prison cell came the day after a Greenville, (S. C.) jury had acquitted a confessed lynch mob of the murder of Willie Earle, a Negro. The action of the Jackson mob aroused a storm of controversy throughout the nation. Mon. 5-26-47

THINK NEGRO FLED FROM MASKED MEN

Times

30g

North Carolina Officials Believe Youth Taken From Jail Made Escape From White Band

New York N.Y.

JACKSON, N. C., May 24 (AP)—There were strong indications tonight, officers said, that a terrified Negro, apparently facing death at the hands of armed, masked white men, made a desperate breakaway from his captors and sped into the pre-dawn darkness Friday as a bullet whistled past his head.

Developments today gave rise to a theory that the frightened Negro, Godwin (Buddy) Bush, gambled with death and won; that a bullet fired after him by one of his abductors missed its mark and that the men who forcibly took him from Northampton County Jail here yesterday morning, fearful of creating too much of a stir, abandoned their plans and left the scene quickly.

Previously it had been thought likely that the Negro, held on a charge of attempted rape of a young married white woman in Rich Square, a tiny community twelve miles away, had been lynched. A two-day search, by about threescore Federal, state and county officers has brought no trace of him—or of the white men who abducted him.

Rosa Howard, a Negro woman who lives across the street from the Jackson jail, told Solicitor E. R. Tyler that she saw a man break away from a crowd in front of the jail early Friday morning and run across a yard next to her house. She said, in an affidavit, that one man fired a single shot in the direction of the fleeing man and then entered one of several parked automobiles, which immediately drove away. Sun. 5-25-47

Bullet Imbedded in Shack

The woman was unable to say whether the man who ran past her house was a Negro. She also said she could not identify any of the persons gathered around the jail.

A reporter found a bullet imbedded in a small wooden shack directly across from the jail and a footprint in the wet earth, apparently made by a running man. The bullet and a cast of the footprint were sent today to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington. The FBI had at least four agents here today.

The woman's statement, along with the discovery of the bullet and footprints, and the absence of any trace of the Negro, caused officers to lean to the theory that Bush had escaped.

"I'm sure he's alive," Solicitor Tyler said.

There were no announced clues today as to the men who removed Bush from the Jackson jail at 2 A. M. yesterday. One of five State Bureau of Investigation agents, who declined use of his name, said: "We have been directed by the Governor to find out everything in connection with this case."

Every attempt would be made, he said, to identify the persons who abducted Bush.

Meanwhile officers were continuing their search for Bush in the thick pine woods of Northampton, Hertford and Halifax Counties, although they were fairly certain now that he had not been lynched.

Bush was charged with attempting to rape Mrs. Margaret Allen Bryant, a stenographer. High school boys heard her screams as a Negro chased her early Thursday night. Bush later was arrested and taken to the Jackson jail. A few hours later he was forcibly taken from the 60-year-old Jackson jailer.

State Officers on Patrol

Because of previous race tension in the little community, resulting from two other attempted rape cases within the last month, Solicitor Tyler said he tried to have Bush removed from the Jackson jail for safekeeping but failed when his telephone calls to Jailer E. W. Edwards and Sheriff J. C. Stephenson were delayed. When he finally contacted Jailer Edwards, he said, he learned that the Negro had been seized only five minutes before.

Times

Mr. Tyler said that only three weeks ago some fifty men surrounded the Jackson jail but that two Negroes who were then under arrest there were removed to safety by officers.

Governor R. Gregg Cherry, who said "North Carolina will not tolerate lynchings and mob violence," directed the full force of all the state's law enforcement agencies to investigate the case. 30 N.C.

Meanwhile, as another development of the day, reports persisted that the Negro might have been thrown into the nearby Roanoke river. Officers said they would investigate each report until it was proved false. Sun. 5-25-47

N.C. Governor Calls on Police to Solve 'Shameful' Happening

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

30g

Sat. 5-31-47

RALEIGH, N.C. — Expressing his regret over the seizure of George Bush from the Jackson jail by a mob, Governor A. Gregg Cherry on May 23 issued a statement in which he said emphatically, "North Carolina will not tolerate lynching and mob violence."

Declaring that the State has set a precedent by punishing white men who form mobs and mistreat colored persons, the Governor cited the conviction of five men on charges of unlawful assembly after they tried to seize a man being held on an assault charge in the Person County Jail at Roxboro. Sat. 5-31-47

He pointed out that North Carolina had seen "no such shameful thing as has just happened at Jackson" since the lynching on July 30, 1935, and called on all law enforcement officers in the State to search out the guilty parties.

Lynch Town Warns Briton

PM N.Y., N.Y.

30g

The near-lynching in North Carolina got front page display in the London *Daily Express* with a cabled story by C. V. R. Thompson, U. S. correspondent, reporting that he was warned by officials to "get out of town before dark" when he went to Rich Square to investigate. Tue. 6-3-47

Thompson wrote that he was glad to leave because he found Rich Square "an ugly place and I don't mean its architecture." He quoted the police chief as saying of the seven men under arrest: "Why, they're our highest type of family."

The English reporter said that Americans have not learned Britain's secret of living with Negroes and "encouraging them up instead of holding them down."

Meanwhile, racial tension continued in Northeastern North Carolina with complaints from two white women that Negroes had attempted to rape them.

Four Accused Of Kidnaping In Mob Case

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

30g

Warrants Are Issued For Arrest Of Men In Alleged Lynch Try

Wed. 5-28-47

JACKSON, N. C., May 27.—(AP)—Warrants charging seven persons with kidnaping for taking Godwin (Buddy) Bush, 24-year-old Negro, from the jail here in an apparent lynching attempt last Friday were signed before Magistrate J. H. Boone here tonight.

Earlier Sheriff J. C. Stephenson, of Northampton County said that warrants had been sworn against only four persons.

RICH SQUARE, N. C., May 27.—(AP)—Solicitor Ernest B. Tyler said tonight that warrants charging four white men with kidnaping were being delivered to Northampton County Sheriff J. C. Stephenson in connection with the seizure of Godwin Bush, 24-year-old Negro, from jail at Jackson, N. C., last Friday.

Tyler said the identity of the men would not be revealed until they had been arrested by Stephenson "sometime tonight."

In a statement given to the Associated Press by long distance telephone, Tyler said, "we are charging them with kidnaping, the only felony involved in the case."

One Confessed

The solicitor said the warrants were being obtained on the strength of a confession from one of the members of the mob which took Bush, a suspect in the alleged attempted criminal attack of a white woman, from the jail. The Negro escaped, after making a daring break for freedom just after he had been placed in an automobile in front of the jail. Wed. 5-28-47

In Raleigh, Governor Cherry said he was "glad they're making some progress" when informed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had obtained a confession from one of the mob.

"I hope they'll get enough evidence to sustain convictions," Cherry added.

Tyler declined to discuss the case fully, saying that he was then in the process of handing the warrants to Sheriff Stephenson. He indicated it would probably take several hours for Stephenson to make the arrests.

In Washington, the FBI said the confession implicated "seven other white persons" in the affair.

An announcement from Director J. Edgar Hoover said the evidence in the case had been examined by the Department of Justice, which held that no violation of federal law was involved.

Hence, he said, the confession "and the identity of the others participating" had been turned over to the state solicitor, Ernest B. Tyler, at Jackson.

30g 1947 Ohio 7607

Drink-Crazed Passengers Force Bus On Nightmare Ride

30g

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Sat. 1-4-47

PORTSMOUTH, OHIO, Jan. 3. —(AP)—An hour of terror on a speeding Greyhound bus, in which two brothers went berserk, beat the driver and fired 14 shots among the 23 passengers was described here today.

Women prayed and men cringed as the vehicle roared through rain and mist in the darkness of midnight with a drink-crazed man directing the driver.

To enforce his demands for more speed or less speed, the shouting, laughing figure temporarily in command held a jagged whisky bottle to the driver's throat and banged him on the head with a pistol.

The nightmare ended when passengers overpowered the men at Wheelersburg, A Portsmouth suburb, about 1 a.m. today.

"Boy, I was scared to death all the time," Driver C. L. Stillwell, 36, of Charleston, W. Va., declared tonight as he recounted the 30-mile trip along the Ohio River from Ironton, Ohio, to Wheelersburg.

Stillwell was weak from loss of blood as he rested in a hospital, but otherwise was in good condition. Lawrence Steele of Cincinnati, a passenger, was treated for a broken nose.

In jail here were Hobart Griffith, 26, an ex-soldier released from a veterans hospital a month ago, and Ray Griffith, 20. From Wheelright, Ky., the Griffith brothers had been rooming at Huntington, W. Va., where they were employed. They were en route to Cincinnati.

Hobart, described by Deputy Sheriff Burl Justice as the man who beat the driver with a pistol, was charged with shooting with intent to kill. Ray was charged with assault.

~~The brothers were attacked by a crowd of Wheelsburg citizens, aroused by the passengers' harrowing accounts, and sheriff's deputies had to res[illegible] them an[illegible] rush them to jail.~~

The pair boarded the bus at Huntington over the objection of Stillwell, who said they had been drinking. The excitement began after the bus left Ironton when Stillwell remonstrated with the men because of their language.

Hobart, said Deputy Justice, fired shots through the floor of the bus and into the driver's seat. Then he took command of the bus and operated the accelerator while the driver strove desperately to steer.

30g/1a

"I don't know how we got through the sharp-curve underpass at Hanging Rock," Stillwell said. "The underpass is on a steep curve and we were doing 40 miles an hour." The Advertiser

While the shooting was in progress Mrs. Phyllis Reed of Richmond, Ind., covered her two-year-old son, William, with her body to protect him. Montgomery, Ala

The climax came, Officer Justice said, when Hobart announced he was going to shoot all the war veterans and then drive the bus and the others into the Ohio River. Sat. 1-4-47

" 'You're first,' " Justice said Hobart told the driver; " 'But I don't want to shoot you sitting down. You must stand up.' "

Stillwell had to stop the bus to stand up. Then the passengers jumped Griffith and his brother.

The Griffith brothers were tossed out of the bus and walked down the highway to a garage where they surrendered meekly.

7608

Lynch Mob Thwarted At Kingstree, S. C.

Journal & Guide
10-11-47
30g

KINGSTREE, S. C. — An armed mob of hundreds of infuriated white men was dispersed here Wednesday Sept. 17 after being told by Sheriff Pearless Lambert that the Negro prisoner they sought—with intentions to lynch—had been moved from the Kingstree jail.

The would-be-lynch victim, Bennie Collins, 20, was arrested on a charge sworn to by a 15-year-old white girl who said he had attempted to criminally attack her as she was alone in her home last Sunday night.

In her statement, the girl stated that Collins was the man who grabbed her. She said she fought from room to room with the attacker before escaping into a cornfield.

Sheriff Saves S. C. Youth, 20, From Lynching

Courier
Pittsburgh Pa
30g Sat. 10-11-47

KINGSTREE, S. C. (ANP) — The quick and determined action of Sheriff Pearless Lambert prevented a mob of white citizens from taking Bennie Collins, 20, accused of attempting to rape a 15-year-old white girl, from the local jail, supposedly to lynch him.

Collins was first arrested here and placed in jail. After the sheriff persuaded the mob to disperse, Collins was spirited away to an undisclosed destination for his safety.

SOME ARMED Sat. 10-11-47

Some of the members of the crowd that gathered at the Kingstree jail were armed, according to the sheriff, but after he talked quietly to them, they left the premises.

The girl, according to Lambert, identified Lambert as the man who grabbed her as she was home alone Sunday night, Sept. 21. She claimed that she fought with the youth from room to room and finally escaped in a cornfield.

7609

Girl Accuses Negro, Mob Of 40 Assembles

[illegible] 30g

Birmingham, Ala.

CENTERVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 28—(AP)—A teen-age Negro held on complaint of a 13-year-old white girl was taken to Nashville as a safety measure after a crowd of about 40 white men assembled near the Hickman County Jail here yesterday.

The girl said the Negro, identified by State Safety Commissioner Lynn Bomar as James Dansby, attempted to rape her. Tue. 1-28-47

State highway patrolmen described the members of the crowd as "in a menacing mood," and Bomar said they "thought it best" to have the Negro removed from Centerville.

Attack Suspect Snatched From Mob; Eye Beaten Out

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier Sat. 7-19-47

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—(ANP)—John Fleming, 40, can thank Capt. Elmer Dykes of the local police that he is alive today. Fleming was rescued by Dykes here last week from a mob of 200 whites, bent on lynching him for the alleged rape of a white girl.

Fleming was being beaten by the mob when he tore himself loose and ran blindly along a riverfront section, with the mob at his heels. Before they could recapture him, Dykes stepped in and whisked Fleming to safety.

LOST EYE

As a result of the beating, the victim suffered the loss of an eyeball and several severe bruises and cuts. He is now in Knoxville General Hospital under police protection.

The rapidity with which the mob spirit came was blamed on an earlier racial incident in which Jess Evans, a local farmer, shot and killed Deputy Sheriff Harlwy Nelson in a gun battle just outside the city. Evans was subsequently killed by police.

30g

According to Sheriff Cate, the deputy was slain while seeking to arrest Evans for shooting at a white man. Sat. 7-19-47

SHOT THROUGH WINDOW

"Nelson went up to the door of a house where Evans had taken refuge after shooting at a farmer," the sheriff said. "He asked the Negro to surrender, but instead the Negro shot him through a window."

He said that 20 carloads of officers surrounded the house and Evans was again ordered to come out. When he refused, tear gas was fired into the house, officers rushed in, and Evans was killed.

The Afro American

by Tenn. Police

Baltimore, Md.

Victim Accused of Attack on Girl

7-19-47

Sat. 7-19-47

30g

KNOXVILLE (ANP) — John Fleming, 40, was rescued here recently by Elmer Dykes, police captain, from a mob of about 200 bent on lynching him for an alleged criminal attack on a white girl.

Fleming was being beaten by the mob when he tore himself loose and ran blindly along a river front section, with a vanguard of the mob at his heels. Before the mob could recapture him, Dykes stepped in and whisked him to safety. Sat 7-19-47

Lost Eye

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The rapidity with which the mob spirit came was blamed on an earlier racial incident in which Jess Evans, a local farmer, shot and killed Deputy Sheriff Harley Nelson, 21, in a gun battle just outside the city. Evans was subsequently killed by State and city police.

Lynching Stopped

30g 1947 Texas

7611

Texan Rushed To Houston Jail

30g Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Sat 8-2-47

HOUSTON—(ANP)— Rushed to the county jail by Texas Rangers to avoid mob violence, Raymond Davis 17, of Newton, Texas is reported to have admitted slaying two white men who had given a lift as he walked down a country road.

Sat, 8-2-47

Both white men were killed by bullets from a .22 rifle. One died instantly and the other died the following day, according to officers.

Davis' arrest came after an eight day man hunt in which hundreds of officers and citizens took part.

Davis escaped fom jail following a two day routine questioning by law enforcement officials but was returned to jail by his father. He is said to have admitted he killed the two men.

SAVED FROM LYNCHERS 30g

Afro American

LUBBOCK, Tex. (ANP) — Charged with slaying a county sheriff, George Holland, 32, was whisked away from would-be lynchers last week.

Baltimore, Md. Sat 8-23-47

7612

DEEP SOUTH SPEAKS

- By -
Robt. Durr

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

30h gen.

The Crime Of Violating The Person Of Women Revolting, Southern Papers Run Rampant

Sat. 7-12-47

THE WAR with its abundant source of headline material is over. There is a desperate scramble in many daily and weekly newspaper circles for headline material. Often when material is not to be had manyunscrupulous journalists manufacture such material by magnifying interracial incidents a thousand times beyond their actual truthfullness.

The crime of violating the person of any woman is indeed the most revolting of all crimes except perhaps when accompanied by cold blooded murder. It is not to be condoned under any circumstances. Any man guilty of such a crime should be imprisoned for life. This is, I think, the feeling of mose decent people—white and colored—in the Deep South.

Many daily newspapers here in the Deep South run wild in playing-up, all out of proportion, stories of alleged rape upon white women by mentally deranged and over-sexed colored men. Nothing in the world fans the fires of race hatred and the determination by white supremacists to keep colored people nailed to the cross of oppression and exploitation more than this crime by newspapers guilty of this sort of thing.

A goodly number of these hate-breeding newspapers spew hot and cold on the crime of rape when both the perpetrator and the victim are white. As a rule, the editorial writers approach the subject when the perpetrator is colored in realistic, sober and sensible manner, while the news editors play it up on the front page and go all out to fan the fires of race hate and mob violence. These same papers get millions and millions of dollars from colored subscribers and from advertisers who sell to colored readers. At the same time, they make this "crime against women" the shield behind which they hide as they go forth to cut the colored people's throat in such way that they are half dead, before they realize they are cut.

• • • •

The number of potential or actual rapists among white and colored men in the South is, I would hazard, in proportion to their numbers. Literally millions of colored women have been raped in the South. During the days of slavery the white slaveholding male, what with colored women servants at his beck and call, had but to call the most comely slave girl or woman to his bed an violate her with no fear of any sort of punishment.

After "Surrender," as the living former slaves refer to the day of their legal physical liberation, the North is said to have bargain with the South, giving the South the former slaves to do with as it might desire and taking for itself the natural exploitation. This marked the resources for development and beginning of the disfranchisement movement, and the economic reenslavement of colored people.

• • • •

To achieve this, race segregation—the mother evil of evils—was imposed by statute, cheating, chicanery, starving colored women into submitting their persons to white men as sexual commodes, making it appear in every way possible that the colored man was basically a sex fiend who would impregnate the fairest and most decent damsel with bastard mongrel babies.

The only thing that kept this thing from achieving its purpose was that a lot of trashy white women overplayed the cry of rape, and white men who wanted to violate some of their own women blackened their faces to do their dirty work, knowing full well that they could join the mob after the outcry and quiet everything down by lynching the first terrorized colored man the mob could lay its hands on.

Some of the foulest deeds against humanity have been perpetuated by white men in the South against colored women, and against decency and truth everywhere, while they hid behind the played up, manufactured charge of violation of 95 per cent of which is always white women by colored men, untrue.

Colored men who have not been denied the opportunity to live as human beings, proved even during the Civil War, when they remained at home and protected the daughters and mothers of the men who were away fighting to keep them in slavery, that the charge that colored men are prone to violate women is an unmitigated lie.

7/12/47

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The foregoing are some of the reasons why colored people in the New South pray that friends of decency everywhere will join in having legislation passed in line with what President Truman pointed out in his address at the closing session of the NAACP conference at the Lincoln Memorial.

It is the reason why the American people must call upon the American press through its news columns not to become so zealous in the business of getting headline material that it becomes the chief glorifier and promoter of mob violence.

The major Hollywood producers ought give us a series of top-flight pictures exposing the crimes which have been and are being committed by punks and cowards who hide behind women's skirts. I sometime think the movies are inclined to be lined up in this conspiracy to butcher colored Americans at the bar of public opinion.

Most Criminal Attack Charges False, Says D.C. Police Official

30h gen.

Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 11-15-47

WASHINGTON (ANP)—A majority of the cases of criminal assault reported to the police, according to Captain Rhoda J. Milliken, chief of the Women's Bureau of the Washington Police Department. Many of the complainants, married women especially, admit under questioning that the charge is false, but say it establishes a good alibi for unfaithfulness.

When the man accused happens to be colored and lives in the South, the results may be a lynching or other miscarriage of justice through conviction of an innocent person. Cases of this sort have occurred in recent years in Richmond, Columbia, S.C., and other cities.

Captain Milliken believes with social workers, sociologists, teachers and lawyers, that exposing such false charges will help combat mob violence and lawlessness in the South. The usual practice fo the daily press is to give much more prominent display to the original charge than to the retraction.

Atlanta Constitution

'Prejudiced Mind'

30h gen.

Editor Constitution: Reader Tarpley's letter shows clearly the workings of a prejudiced mind. But that is not his fault. He has been taught to think as he does, and the newspapers have played a great part in teaching him so. You see, he evidently does not read the inner pages of his paper where the reports on crimes by white people are put. He does not read for the far greater number of rapings by white men, often on girls not yet in their teens.

Rape and slashing are terrible crimes. A person guilty of these offenses should be punished severely. But their guilt and their punishment should be determined by the courts, which were set up for that purpose. Atlanta, Ga.

You are doing a good job by showing lynchings to be just what they are—murder. You could go further. You could emphasize the fact that cries of rape are often false alarms to stir up race hate for a purpose. Sun. 6-8-47

JOSEPH GODBYE, JR.

Lynchings

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Editor Constitution: Why do the people condemn the men that lynch the Negroes that attack white women and young girls? Stop the attacks and you will stop the lynchings! Why don't you write something in regard to the punishment the Negroes will receive and let them know that they will be lynched if they still commit this crime? The Negro, or the white man, that commits this crime should be lynched. And that's too good for them. They should be tarred and burned, and slow at that! Thur. 6-5-47

Every piece I read is upholding the Negro, saying they should let the law take its course. The Negro that commits this crime does not regard the law. Write something that will have effect on the Negro and you will stop the lynchings! Lynchings will continue as long as these horrible crimes are permitted!

L. B. TARPLEY.

Atlanta.

THE POINT

— By —

Gordon B. Hancock

~~Journal & Guide~~ Norfolk, Va.

Dr. Hancock Describes South As Pathetic Section Of Nation With Best White People, Who Oppose Mobs, Most Pathetic Group In That Region

30h gen.

Sat. 6-14-47

THE temptation to indulge at length in bitter denunciation of the South for the unhappy events transpiring here is at times an overwhelming one. But there are those of us who keep straining to see the South's better side. Only the callous and menial spirits fail to see great improvement in the South in spite of all the ugly happenings, from the Greenville legal farce to the elevation of such men as Talmadge and Bilbo.

The world is all too conversant with the "Solid South," the lynch-ridden South, the lawless South, the Negro baiting South etc., but there is a pathetic South that deserves more attention than hitherto given it. The great Roosevelt saw it when he said that the South was the nation's Number One economic problem. He saw the poor ignorant and undernourished South, a pathetic South if you please.

The pathetic South is nowhere so apparent as in its sex-centered millions whose lives hinge so largely about matters of sex and the foibles thereof. It is a sociological fact that the reason for the prolific birth rates among the poor is an impoverished social and economic life. This is equally true of Negroes and poor whites. It is among the latter that this sexiness takes on serious aspects.

The lowly whites have but one overmastering obsession and that is sexual fear of Negroes. The scum of the white South glorifies this obsession and this it is that makes lynching such a difficult problem. The lynching of a Negro has compensatory meanings for the poor whites, for it gives a kind of respectability to his sex obsessions. The world of this class of whites is a sex world. This constitutes one of the ugliest observations of the Twentieth Century.

The passion of this sex-crazed element was inflamed by the widely publicized fact that Negro soldiers left 10,000 Negro-white babies in the British Isles and it was doubtless further inflamed when some of the Negro press carried pictures of these Negro soldiers in association with the frauleins of Germany. The lowly classes of the South swore revenge for this affront to the glorified traditions of the South. These lowly southerners became alarmed with sex-fright and made subtle plans for retaliation. The only course their blinded minds could devise was an orgy of rape stories. Sat. 6-14-47

It is a definite fact that wherever riots have occurred between Negroes and whites they have been preceded by a plethora of these rape stories. I have just completed a journey which took in Columbia, Atlanta and Birmingham and the story was the same in all three cities. the baser passions were aflame over stories on rapes and rumors of rape. This was the sexy South's answer to the publicized facts about the intimacies of Negroes and whites in Europe.

That these intimacies are old and ugly may be seen in a casual inspection of any audience in the South and nation. The rape stories and the lynchings and near-lynching they beget are the sexy South's answer to the situation. Such is the pathetic South, the sexy South and its lynchers at large.

Sat. 6-14-47

To those of us who at times become irate and bitter and would heap maledictions upon the South, it would be well to remember the most pathetic class of the pathetic South is the decent whites who are surrounded and confounded by the baser elements of the sexy South who have brought dismay and disgrace to the South and the nation. Who have wrought an international embarrassment to our great nation and disqualified it for the moral leadership of the world in one of the most critical ages of history. The pathetic South, consisting of the barbaric South, flaunting its anachronistic barbarisms in the face of the civilized South!

Rape and Lynching

The News and Courier

To The News and Courier:

Any man who is so low down in the scale of human life, who so far forgets himself as to deliberately and maliciously criminally assault or rape any decent and well respected woman, richly deserves the immediate death penalty. The laws of our states should be so drawn that the rapist would have to pay for that heinous crime within a period of not more than 30 days, in the state courts, by hanging or electrocution, which includes a review by the high courts of the state.

30h gen.

If the rapist gets by the high state courts, he could then be given another 30 days only for final review by the supreme court of the United States. Fri. 6-6-47

A great hullabaloo is going up all the while about the "sacred civil rights" of the rapist, but not one word about the sacred protection of the defenseless young girls, middle-aged women and old women who are constantly being attacked by brutes. Charleston, S.C.

As long as the laws will not force these criminals to stand trial and either be executed or set free within a period of 30 days, lynching will continue. The cure for lynching is to stop raping. This should apply to all criminal assaulters and outright rapists.

H. C. DWIGGINS.

Lakeland, Fla.

To The News and Courier:

We do not advocate lynching, but everybody might as well understand it's not a Southern custom to sit on the front porch in peace and quiet while the wife or daughter is being raped in the back yard.

Fri. 6-6-47

MARCUS A. STONE.

Florence.

THE PULSE OF THE PUBLIC

End Segregation?

Atlanta Constitution

Editor Constitution: Your editorial of June 4, "A Different Kind of Negro Story," was both interesting and informative. However, you made one statement therein which I think many people would like to be further explained. You stated in effect, "Those of good will towards the Negro know he does not want "Social Equality" in the accepted meaning.

If you meant the mixing of the races in strictly private social affairs you are partially correct, however, if you meant the Negro does not want segregation ended then you are absolutely incorrect, misleading and evasive. Tues. 6-10-47

I hold a position where I come in contact with many Negroes and I have discussed segregation with numbers of them in a friendly manner. Also the Atlanta Daily World recently published my letter asking for an expression from the Georgia Negro as to their attitude. I received some 61 answers from all walks of Negro life and without exception they state they are backing all their national organizations, in all their aims; they want anti-lynching laws, strong national FEPC and an end to segregation as they do not believe there can be dual equal opportunity for the races. Furthermore, all Negro papers are openly pushing campaigns for the end of segregation. Atlanta, Ga.

The majority of white people in Georgia consider segregation the most vital part of "Social Equality" and whether it fits in with the recently announced policy of the Rosenwald Foundation to end it, or the local press' nationally influenced policy or not, we, the white people of Georgia, are going to keep it, if we are permitted to vote on it. It may not be humane, fair or in accordance with the Constitution but it's what the vast majority of white people want, so the sooner we recognize the fact and make a different approach to the betterment of the Negro race we will continue to be divided, according to the press, into the bigots and the Communists or self-called liberals.

A. H. THURMOND, JR.

Decatur.

Reply to Tarpley

Atlanta Constitution

Editor Constitution: I am a native of Atlanta myself and am deeply ashamed that a fellow Atlantan should express publicly such sentiment as does Mr. L. B. Tarpley.

30h gen.

Can't he realize that people who commit rape are mentally unbalanced, and are therefore to some degree not responsible for their actions. Atlanta, Ga.

Furthermore, he doesn't seem to realize that all too frequently the habits of young girls and women exposing so much of their body often invite undue liberties, not to say even rape! Tues. 6-10-47

Every person committing a crime, no matter how heinous or terrible it may be, is entitled to a fair trial under our constitution. Be he Negro or white.

Mr. Tarpley speaks of "not regarding the law." He does not seem to realize that he is an advocate of unlawful action, namely murder, which is punishable by death, the same as rape.

CECIL R. HINTON

Jacksonville, Fla.

Lynchings

Atlanta Constitution 30h gen.

Editor Constitution: Briefly replying to L. B. Tarpley's "lynching" letter, I wish to call his attention to the fact that we are a duly constituted government, and existing under certain established laws enacted by the people and for the people. Under this set-up, and because we are a civilized nation, it is imperative that we MUST respect said laws even when our blood boils in and out of us. Mr. Tarpley might be right, but law and order is law and order, and must be observed even when the law is wrongly enacted.

Civilization is founded upon law, the nation's law and not the personal law. Yes, law must take its course, if we want to survive and be a proud nation.

Atlanta, Ga. LEONARD PENNISI

Atlanta.

Tues. 6-10-47

Southern Newspaper Playup Of Rape Stories Incite Racial Strife

(30k) Gen. The Call Kansas City Mo.

Fri. 6-13-47

By LUTHER A. TOWNSLEY

CHICAGO.—(ANP) — Following the release of 28 self-confessed lynchers in Greenville, S. C., many southern white newspapers have spearheaded violence against Negroes by playing up stories of alleged assaults on white women by Negro men. They have promoted a reign of terror that engulfs Negroes from North Carolina to the farthest boundaries of Florida.

All of Columbia, S. C., was excited last week over the alleged slashing of a white housewife by a Negro male. The whole Negro area was intimidated by 300 armed citizens and a 200-man posse of state, county and municipal police officers, all joining in the search for the Negro suspect while unarmed Negroes looked on. Negroes are not allowed to join South Carolina's law enforcement agencies.

Rape Victims Unharmed

Under the guise of enforcing law and order, white citizens may legally enjoy the manhunt, which is a southern sport comparable only to the old English foxhunt. Why should 300 white citizens be permitted to take up arms to find one Negro when 200 police officers are getting paid for that purpose? Would 300 whites join a similar number of peace officers to find a white man accused of attacking a Negro woman? Would the whites of south Carolina permit Negroes to form a 300-man posse to track down the white offender?

What happened last week in Columbia, S. C., happens in other southern communities that tolerate mob rule. Rather than give needless space to the attack story, a crime punishable by law, the State should have played up the mob element, and editorially denounced all law enforcement agencies for permitting a citizen posse to assist in capturing the suspect.

The State gave a factual report of the mob spirit under a subhead, which read: "Posse Hunts Negro After Woman Slashed." Part of an Associated Press story quoted police as saying "a fiery cross was burned near a Negro residential section last night (Wednesday) and officers were investigating a report that white men threw a ball of flaming tar into a Negro's home.

"The posse, armed with clubs and guns, was formed quickly after the woman (white) reported that a Negro who attempted to attack her last Wednesday broke into her house again yesterday, cursed her and slashed her arm with a knife, and then fled," the AP dispatch read.

The State carried an AP report of the fathers of two 15-year-old white girls who said a Negro attempted to rape them as they were returning home from a movie in Raleigh, N. C. In a telegram to Gov. Cherry, the fathers expressed the old Dixie spirit. Although their daughters were not harmed, they said:

Message to Governor

"Would you try and get some of the FBI men that helped catch the would-be mob of white men in Northampton county to help catch the Negro who attacked our daughters Saturday night?"

The governor replied that he would not ask the FBI to enter the case until he had some "foundation" for such a request. But that is only a partial description of the intense hatred the majority of southern whites have for Negroes, the reason why such deep-rooted racial prejudices survive the modern industrial period, the effect of economic exploitation of both racial groups, which most southern white newspapers condone. Fri. 6-13-47

Playing up rape stories involving Negro males and white females is a big business proposition to most southern white newspapers. The editors know the intensity of local anti-Negro hatred. They know the depth of "white supremacy" sentiment, but they also understand the tenets of democracy. The Negro male-white female rape story boosts circulation, projects the publication as a popular newspaper to constructively serve the community.

Beside the three white dailies already mentioned as notorious for playing up rape stories that incite and promote anti-Negro sentiment, others include the Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, and the Commercial Appeal, Memphis. Evidence against all five newspapers may be found in their news columns dealing with crimes committed by Negroes, with the choicest morsels featuring the Negro male-white female angle.

Four of the south's leading liberal white newspapers, real models of constructive journalism, are the Richmond News Leader, the Louisville Courier Journal, the Atlanta Constitution, and the News and Observer, Raleigh, N. C. A check of their news columns reveals no sensational playup of Negro crime stories to incite the lynch spirit of local whites.

The Only Remedy

News & Courier 30k Gen.

"The crime against woman" has been and is the breeder of murder by mobs in the South. Governors (one or two) in South Carolina have defended that kind of murder, lauded it. It was inexcusable.

It has emboldened mobs to murder in retaliation for other crimes, sometimes for no crime. Charleston, S.C.

In the South are two races. They are separate. They mean to stay separate. Legislation and action cannot and will not alter the facts.

Swift, sure trial and conviction of assailants of women, white or black, of other doers of capital crimes, will stop lynching. Nothing else will. Wed. 6-4-47

There will be those to say that this speedy trial and infliction of the death penalty would be "legal lynching." So be it, if it will stop the lynching that leaves stains of blood guilt on the hands of men.

The Record, Columbia newspaper, points to the conviction of a negro who, if executed June 20, will die two months and a day from the date of the crime that he did. The case is exceptional, rarely exceptional. Half a dozen or more of the outrages against white women by negroes in South Carolina have been reported in the last fortnight—and not yet can any man say that the Sumter negro will die on the day appointed. (Two months and a day is a long time for a rapist to live.).

Were South Carolina under martial law, felons would be shot in a week or a day. We say it, and let it astound whom it will, that race conditions in South Carolina make the stern celerity of martial law necessary in South Carolina to save womanhood, to save life, and at the same time to prevent mob-murder.

Innocent men sometimes have been done to death by mobs. If it be said that trials followed by executions in two weeks might cost an innocent life, they would nevertheless immensely reduce the peril which the innocent face from mobs. Wed. 6-4-47

THE MID-SOUTH

— By —

HAROLD L. TRIGG

~~Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.~~

Men Think Objectively About Cotton, Cane Or Rice Production, But Are Controlled By Emotionalism In Considering Human Relationships

30k Gen. Sat. 6-21-47

ATLANTA, Ga.—The wave of rape hysteria which engulfs the southeast is an example of the emotional reaction to the problems involved in regional human inter-relations when the sex factor is uppermost. Men apply the processes of critical thinking to cotton, cane and rice production, but in some affairs involving the races thinking is limited to the printed page and the book is closed with a bang. In these periods of tension the strangest distorted conceptions come forth from persons of all classes.

The editor of an old and established southern newspaper says that the "abolition of slavery halted amalgamation . . . in the South . . . Almost it has come to an end insofar as southern white people are concerned."

Another commentator thinks that "the victim of a lynch mob is usually guilty of a capital crime while his victims are, as a rule, innocent white girls, women and men" and that so long as the Negro is guilty of such acts of violence lynching will continue.

Still another reaction is stated in the words of a person close to a trouble spot, "until the Negroes are educated to the fact that they were brought here as servants and are not to be placed on a basis of equality with whites, I fear we shall have trouble in this country."

• • • •

A chief of police in an area of tension thinks 19 alleged sex crimes in his immediate vicinity are due to Negro soldiers mixing with white women in the European war theatre, and to lewd pictures of white women which seem to have received wide distribution.

One unique contribution to the general comment comes from a man who has studied alleged Negro rapists over a period of two years and finds that they come from homes without fathers, have low IQ's, are non-church goers, did not belong to boys clubs, have had up to five years of schooling, and are of low economic status.

A substantial proportion of southerners are of the same belief expressed in the first four comments. These reactions are old and unmodified. They come to the surface whenever there is a crime of violence in which the Negro is the alleged criminal and a white person the victim.

Emotionalized attitudes and stock reactions are the problem of race relations. They stem from personality conflicts. To eliminate the conflicts one must begin with the cause. This is a slow process, and at the present time, there is little understanding of the problem and no organized effort to solve it.

Sat. 6-21-47

The picture which is so tragic on the surface has one bright spot which deserves the consistent attention of those who watch for signs of change, and who would give some intelligent direction to evolving trends.

It is the changing conception of applied justice, the struggle to elevate the administration of justice to a level that is closer to the ideal in which race, creed, color, sex and socio-economic status are not factors in the due process of rendering to the individual what is due or deserved in the form of reward or punishment. This struggle to a higher level of justice in the South is spearheaded by top jurists when free from the restriction of the "twelve peers."

Sacredness of personality, inviolability of the person, freedom from violence to the body are fundamental concepts of democracy. It is within recent years, however, that Negro women were included in the category of inviolability. Formerly, the woman of color could not be raped. The act was always by consent. Evidences of widening the principle to include all women are accumulating. The following instances come from press reports.

Two white police officers of Richmond, Va., who raped a colored woman in October, 1946, were convicted and sentenced to seven years each. A white man who raped a five-year-old girl, daughter of a Negro minister at Laurel, Miss., in March, 1947, received a life sentence:

Sat. 6-21-47

A white man, who raped a pregnant Negro woman in November, 1946, near Baltimore, Md., was convicted by an all-white jury. A white man, who raped a Negro woman at Apex, N. C., in 1945, was convicted and sentenced to 10-15 years. In Florida a white man, who raped a Negro woman in 1938, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

30h 1947

General

7615

THE MID-SOUTH

30h gen.

— By —

HAROLD L. TRIGG

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

Facts Refute Belief Rape Main Cause Of Lynching; Newspapers Play Colored Man-White Woman Cases, But Skip Reverse Incidents

Sat. 6-28-47

ATLANTA, Ga.—Even more serious than is the crime itself is the persisting tendency on the part of some people to associate lynching with only rape. If this blindness were limited to persons of little education and low intelligence, it could be understood. But when a member of Congress from an enlightened southern state is not familiar with the facts about lynching, it is time to show grave concern.

Recently a southern member of the House is said to have expressed the determination to propose federal anti-rape legislation when anti-lynch laws are again introduced in Congress. This man has intelligence, education and prestige in his community. It is hardly probable that he did not read the papers in 1946 when six Negroes were mob victims—Leon McTatie was lynched for stealing a saddle which he did not steal; four Negroes in Georgia—two women and a man accused of no crime, one man for stabbing a white man; one Negro veteran in Louisiana accused of breaking into the home of a white woman who refused to press charges.

The facts about lynching since 1889 are available. In all that time not 25 in a hundred of almost 4000 were even accused of rape or attempted rape. In the five year period 1931-35 there were 84 of these acts of mob violence. Nine of the victims were accused of no crime, 25 of minor offenses, 9 of rape and 13 of attempted rape.

If lynching could be prevented by eliminating rape or attempted rape of white women by Negro men, it would be possible to concentrate upon this specific problem. If crimes of violence against the person of white men by Negro men were added, the area of concentration would be widened but slightly. When Negroes are lynched for no crime, or when accusations are proven to have no foundation, the problem of mob violence against the Negro must be oriented to causes yet undisclosed, and the cry of "rape" becomes a thin cloak for this pristine urge to destroy the helpless, the different, and the unknown. Sat. 6-28

Punishment to be effective must be associated with the crime. Lynching is associated with no crime in the mind of the Negro, for the simple reason that no offense is necessary to draw mob violence—except just being a Negro. The South is suffering from self-inflicted punishment due largely to the policy of publicizing incidents of rape or attempt to rape before there is sufficient evidence to classify them as such.

Race relations in the South are placed under strain, which in many cases is altogether unnecessary, by headlines which identify the Negro as the assailant either when there has been no rape, or when there was no Negro involved. The problem of human relations in the South is too important to be subjected to pressure which could be avoided by a modified policy in publicity.

Sat. 6-28-47

The white and Negro press are not together on the publicizing of violence to persons. Both publish incidents involving colored men and white women, or colored men and colored women. The white press reports incidents involving white men and white women, but seldom or never of white men and Negro women. The Negro press reports cases involving white men and colored women, but seldom of white men and white women. The Negro reads the white papers, but few white people read the Negro papers.

The cause of amicable race relations could be served greatly by uniformity in accuracy and complete coverage by both Negro and white papers. Some dangerous misconceptions could be destroyed or modified and tensions could be reduced and eliminated:

1. If no publicity is given an incident until there is substantial evidence that there has been at least the attempt to rape. If a community gives out "scare" headlines every time a frightened white woman meets a Negro man on a public street after dark and the latter runs from her that community necessarily lays itself wide open for "foreign" needling.

* * *

2. If the alleged assailant is not identified as to race until his race is established. The headline says "Negro Rapes White Woman." Too frequently there is no rape, or rape and no Negro, but no headline follows up with this correction. The harm to race relations is done.

3. If the same type of publicity is given white man-colored woman rape as is given colored man-white woman rape. This will enable the public to see the problem of rape as personality maladjustment in white and black instead of predatory Negro male. Sat. 6-28-47

The elimination of rape is another question. There are an estimated 18,400 dangerous feeble-minded persons running loose in the South. There are thousands of functional illiterates in the South. There are thousands of insecure persons, white and black, in the South.

Neither law against lynching nor lynching the law will take the place of (1) institutions for feebleminded, (2) good schools and compulsory attendance (3) the elimination of adult illiteracy, and (4) good housing, adequate recreation facilities, good jobs, and civic responsibility.

The 'Rape' Hysteria

(From Lighthouse Informer) Fri. 6-6-47

30h gen. Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

In a broadcast from Columbia last week the commentator lashed out at Negro leadership for what he held its failure to halt a series of rape against white women, citing 3 recent instances in South Carolina and implying slyly that lynching itself might be the best protection for white women.

The record of course will show that Negro leadership has always hit hard at any type of crime among its people. At the same time, however, it has had no cooperation from officers and courts who have "winked" at number writing, bootleggers, offenses against other Negroes and moved only when whites have been offended. Simultaneously, these have also "winked" at white men mistreating Negroes.

But to the rape charges themselves this newspaper seriously doubts at least two of them. In one reported at Columbia, one is to believe that the offender, yet unseen by anybody, escaped through the legs of men surrounding the house and vanished before the entire aroused community. A Negro, even while attempting rape, is not endowed with "Houdini" escape powers.

In the case reported from Hartsville, the accused was in church services at the time of the alleged offense. Returning home and learning of the charge, he went immediately to law officers and gave himself up "until you all can get this thing straight." And the entire church is witness to his presence in services.

However, and if these facts shall be upheld later, the newspapers and persons now blazing away at "crime in Negroes, will skip the exonerations. They will not take to task the white women complaining who, protected by law, can scream charges undercover so long as there is the will.

In bold contrast is the rape of a colored woman at Bennettsville a few weeks ago by three white men. Newspapers didn't print a word. Two weeks ago, a white man broke into the room of a mother and three children in the Taylors section around Columbia and attacked her in bed. Arrested, he wasn't given the charge a colored man would have been given had the woman been white. He was charged with burglary. Fri. 6-6-47

Hysteria, whatever its foundation, is dangerous. Though temporary, its disaster can leave permanent blots. Especially is this true in the field of race relations.

Constitution 30h gen. Atlanta, Ga.

Sex Fiends

Editor Constitution: There is a good bit of deserved consternation among those of us who call ourselves "civilized people," because of the increasing number of sex crimes both in our midst and all over the United States. Fri-7-18-47

Well we may be concerned because it is becoming increasingly dangerous for our wives and daughters to leave their homes, either day or night. Fri-7-18-47

Now, we may ask ourselves what to do about this situation—a big question, of course. First, let our wives and daughters avoid being found alone where such degenerates can find them Again, when some fiend has been apprehended, let us refrain from the "sob-sister stuff" of being sorry for him, and saying that he is a poor fellow who has been misled in his life. Let us look at him for what he really is—a misfit—a danger to Americans.

Atlanta Constitution

If we take a look behind us we see that there have been times when sex fiends of this type have been threatened by mob violence, and then have been saved from possible death. Our "sob-sisters" boast of the feat of the mob being cheated, the news services play it up and it is mentioned from the pulpits of our churches. Result, a new wave of the same kind of crimes. On the other hand, if a mob is successful, there is a decided lack of such crimes for some time to come. Fri-7-18-47

I am not an advocate of mob violence. I am willing to let the machinery of the law take its course, but I do not favor the hindering of the law's course by a lot of whimpering about him being a poor unfortunate fellow who knows no better. If public opinion can become aroused to the point where we will see these fiends in the light that they live, something may be done to stop these outrages. If you are in doubt in your feelings, ask a member of some poor girl's family who has been ravished by such a man, and had her life ruined by him. Look at it from that angle, and see what your answer shall be.

Atlanta. WILLIAM SUTTON.

Atlanta Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

Time for Action

30h gen.

Editor Constitution: I have read with a great deal of interest the letter in your paper by William Sutton.

I do not know the author of this article but it is the most sensible and logical line of reasoning I have read in a long time. When our laws become so complicated that some unscrupulous lawyer, who cares only for a fee, can prevent justice from being meted out to such criminals as we have at large ravishing our wives and daughters, it is time for action in some other direction. Sun. 7-27-47

Certainly, no good citizen, especially a Christian, condones mob violence, on the other hand, any good citizen or Christian would protect his family, or any other good woman or girl, from such sex maniacs even to the extent of killing the maniac if necessary. If such crimes cannot be prevented by law enforcement then they must be prevented by other means. Is a criminal's life worth more than the victim he has wronged even worse than death itself? Sun. 7-27-47

I also agree with Mrs. Helen B. Stewart's article in the same paper. Let's arm our women and teach them to shoot to kill when attacked, then let's stop the sob sisters, the churches and the press from playing up the so-called underprivileged criminals and maniacs and let the law be enforced and you will see crime reduced.

J. E. McJENKIN.

Atlanta.

Deep South Speaks

ROBERT DURR
NNPA STAFF WRITER

(30h) gen.
The Call

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Kansas City, Mo.

The war with its abundant source of headline material is over. There is a desperate scramble in many daily and weekly newspaper circles for headline material. Often when material is not to be had many unscrupulous journalists manufacture such material by magnifying interracial incidents a thousand times beyond their actual truthfulness.

Robert Durr

The crime of violating the person of any woman is indeed the most revolting of all crimes except perhaps when accompanied by cold-blooded murder. It is not to be condoned under any circumstances. Any man guilty of such a crime should be imprisoned for life. This is, I think, the feeling of most decent people—white and colored—in the Deep South.

Many daily newspapers here in the Deep South run wild in playing-up all out of proportion, stories of alleged rape upon white women by mentally deranged and over-sexed colored men. Nothing in the world fans the fires of race hatred and the determination by white supremacists to keep colored people nailed to the cross of oppression and exploitation more than this crime by newspapers guilty of this sort of thing. Fri. 7-11-47

HAVE FIRES OF HATE

A goodly number of these hate-breeding newspapers spew hot and cold on the crime of rape when both the perpetrator and the victim are white. As a rule, the editorial writers approach the subject when the perpetrator is colored in realistic, sober and sensible manner, while the news editors play it up on the front page and go all out to fan the fires of race hate and mob violence. These same papers get millions and millions of dollars from colored subscribers and from advertisers who sell to colored readers. At the same time, they make this "crime against women" the shield behind which they hide as they go forth to cut the colored people's throat in such way that they are half dead before they realize they are cut.

The number of potenital or actual rapists among white and colored men in the South is, I would hazard, in proportion to their numbers. Literally millions of colored women have been raped in the South. During the days of slavery the white slaveholding male, what with colored women servants at his beck and call, had but to call the most comely slave girl or woman to his bed and violate her with no fear of any sort of punishment.

After "Surrender," as the living former slaves refer to the day of their legal physical liberation, the North is said to have bargained with the South, giving the South the former slaves to do with as it might desire and taking for itself the natural resources for development and exploitation. This marked the beginning of the disfranchisement movement and the economic reenslavement of colored people. Fri. 7-11-47

MOTHER OF EVIL

To achieve this, race segregation—the mother evil of evils—was imposed by statute, cheating, chicanery, starving colored women into submitting their persons to white men as sexual commodes, making it appear in every way possible that the colored man was basically a sex fiend who would impregnate the fairest and most decent damsel with bastard mongrel babies.

The only thing that kept this thing from achieving its purpose was that a lot of trashy white women overplayed the cry of rape, and white men who wanted to violate some of their own women blackened their faces to do their dirty work, knowing full well that they could join the mob after the outcry and quiet everything down by lynching the first terrorized colored man the mob could lay its hands on.

Some of the foulest deeds against humanity have been perputated by white men in the South against colored women, and against decency and truth everywhere, while they hid behind the played-up, manufactured charge of violation of white women by colored men, 95 per cent of which is always untrue.

DENIED OPPORTUNITY

Colored men who have not been denied the opportunity to live as human beings proved even during the Civil war, when they remained at home and protected the daughters and mothers of the men who were away fighting to keep them in slavery, that the charge that colored men are prone to violate women is an unmitigated lie.

The foregoing are some of the reasons why colored people in the New South pray that friends of decency everywhere will join in having legislation passed in line with that President Truman pointed out in his address at the closing session of the N.A.A.C.P. conference at the Lincoln Memorial. Fri. 7-11-47

It is the reason why the American people must call upon the American press through its news columns not to become so zealous in the business of getting headline material that it becomes the chief glorifier and promoter of mob violence.

The major Hollywood producers ought to give us a series of top-flight pictures exposing the crimes which have been and are being committed by punks and cowards who hide behind women's skirts. I sometime think the movies are inclined to be lined up in this conspiracy to butcher colored Americans at the bar of public opinion.

Speaking Out

(30h) gen.

By ROBERT DURR

Defender Chicago

Crime Against Women

THE WAR WITH ITS ABUNDANT source of headline material is over. There is a desperate scramble in many daily and weekly newspaper circles for headline material. Often when material is not to be had many unscrupulous journalists manufacture such material by magnifying interracial incidents a thousand times beyond their actual truthfulness.

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Many daily newspapers here in the Deep South run wild in playing-up, all out of proportion, stories of alleged rape upon white women by mentally deranged and over-sexed colored men. Nothing in the world fans the fires of race hatred and the determination by white supremacists to keep colored people nailed to the cross of oppression and exploitation more than this crime by newspapers guilty of this sort of thing. Sat. 7-12-47

They Spew Hot and Cold

A GOODLY NUMBER of these hate-breeding newspapers spew hot and cold on the crime of rape when both the perpetrator and the victims are white. Chicago. Ill.

As a rule, the editorial writers approach the subject when the perpetrator is colored in realistic, sober and sensible manner, while the news editors play it upon the front page and go all out to fan the fires of race hate and mob violence.

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30h 1947 Georgia

7616

Sex Crime Cases Rise to 27 Here; Top Gaining Type, FBI Chief Says

30h Ga, Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Thur - 7-3-47

By CELESTINE SIBLEY

Sex crime is on the increase in Atlanta.

In the last 60 days, 27 persons have been indicted by the Fulton County Grand Jury for statutory offenses, so serious conviction of them carries but one sentence: Life imprisonment.

Two women have been criminally assaulted and slain.

City policewomen, assigned to patrol motion-picture theaters, are haling into court an increasing number of men charged with accosting women and little girls.

The principal of at least one City school sent mimeographed notes to all parents, urging them to warn their children against "accepting candy or other presents from strangers" or climbing into automobiles with anyone they did not know.

Sol. Gen. Paul Webb, reporting the indictment of nine persons for criminal assault at a single session of the Grand Jury several weeks ago, admitted the situation held a "nightmarish quality" for the mothers of Fulton County.

But, according to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, it is simply the local manifestation of a national trend—"The most rapidly increasing type of crime, that perpetrated by degenerate sex offenders."

In an article in the July American magazine, the FBI Director posed the question, "How Safe Is Your Daughter?" and the answer, at least locally, according to Webb, is: "Not as safe as she should be."

The Solicitor General blames the increase of sex crimes on a general moral laxness accompanying the aftermath of the war, on unsupervised freedom of youngsters, on the increasing use of alcohol, and on slums. 30h Ga

Of the 27 persons indicted for sex crimes in the last two months, one was the father of 10 children, charged with incest. Webb said the family of 10 occupied two rooms in a crowded, desolate, close-to-town area. A 14-year-old daughter, who previously had been assaulted by a friend of her brother's, was the victim in that case.

The Solicitor General offers as a primary remedy of the increase in sex crimes, retention of medical and psychiatric examiners to assist the courts in handling the cases of sex offenders.

He cited a case two years ago where a sex criminal had been treated by a psychiatrist under court direction and had been cured of his criminal perversion.

"Fortunately, his family was able to pay for this treatment," Webb said. "In most cases the offender cannot afford to pay. Society, in my opinion, would be well served if such treatment were furnished at public expense. But I agree with Hoover that no sex offender should be probated until a board of examiners, after due observation, examination and consultation declares him a safe subject for release." Thur - 7-3-47

The Solicitor General also urged parents to "care where your children go." A "more intelligent social life for young people" would remove much of the danger to the youngsters, Webb said.

Timely Story

30h Ga

Editor Constitution. Celestine Sibley's story in this morning's Constitution is quite timely. 7/21/47

Atlanta Ga. Constitution

I really have been wondering how long it would be until some newspaper writer would wax bold enough to speak up and call attention of the public to the relationship of the current sex-crime wave in Atlanta to the manner in which so many of our young women and matrons go about their neighborhoods oftentimes less than half-dressed. And I know whereof I speak. Mon - 7-21-47

I am glad that our police chief and our policewomen have expressed themselves, and that you have had the courage to write the story for publication. I believe our officers know what they are talking about. And I can speak for myself and say that I certainly have seen "plenty"—and I really mean "plenty." And I'm no prude.

It seems to me that some of these females have actually "dared" and "challenged" some of these male degenerates gadding about to lay hands on them. And I do not wonder that some of them have taken the "dare." Little wonder is it to me that we have had such an outbreak at this season of the year, with our lovely women and girls so carelessly exposing their feminine charms to the lecherous eyes of sex degenerates. Mon. 7-21-47

Keep up the good work and continue to pound home the truth. Let your darts strike where they will.

L. R. SPALDING.

Atlanta.

7-21-47 Atlanta Constitution

30h 1947

South Carolina

7617

PALMETTO STATE

- By -
Modjeska M. Simkins

30h S.C.

Journal + Guide Norfolk, Va.

Where The Question Of Criminal Assault Is Concerned In South Carolina, The Wagon Is Pulling The Mule

Sat. 7-12-47

COLUMBIA, S. C.—When is a "rape" case a RAPE CASE? is a challenging question for the general public, and for newspaper, radio, and police officials, in particular. Significant in this respect was a news release of June 12 in the Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier which said in part, "Complaints of rape or attempted rape in Charleston county are increasing, a survey of a 10-year period revealed yesterday. Apparently there has been an increase in warrants sworn out in recent months but in many instances they are not founded on fact, one official said. Chief Wise said he did not believe that rape is increasing in the area, adding 'and most of our cases never reach court.'.....The charge of rape, difficult to prove, carries with it upon conviction, the death penalty." 7/12/47

Admittedly, as the News and Courier MADE A MISTAKE and said, "The charge of rape is DIFFICULT TO PROVE." But has it really been difficult to "prove" where a man of color was supposed to have attacked a white woman? Ordinarily, the white woman's statement that he "looks like the one" has been sufficient to convict.

The law protects the woman by not divulging her name, and if, as often has happened, she either has deliberately lied or finds that her "identification" is in error, the alleged attacker, by that time, is "mouldering in the grave."

Usually little is said and nothing done when a white man attacks a Negro woman. Either Negro women are supposed to be immune to rape, or the average white person believes that all Negro women are immoral. For instance, when a Columbia city bus driver attempted to criminally assault a young Negro woman on the bus in an outlying area some months ago, an official said, "It's unfortunate that we have no witnesses in this case." WITNESSES HAVE NEVER BEEN NECESSARY WHEN A WHITE WOMAN MADE AN OUTCRY AGAINST A NEGRO MAN.

On learning about this case, a neighbor of the young woman's employer said, "Oh Dear! Suppose that had been one of our girls." Another neighbor said, "Well, most of them would be glad to have him do that to them, but your (employee's name omitted) is just different."

* * * *

White editors, particularly of the South, should be less anxious to publicize immediately alleged criminal assaults. First they should size up the supposed victim as to reputation and integrity, and they should sift and fine-comb her "evidence." Ordinarily press and radio officials are so bent on race-baiting that they quickly print anything.

When they find, as most often they do, and as many of them certainly suspect that the charges are groundless, they seldom attempt to correct earlier statements. It is then left for the Negro press to reveal the truth. Unfortunately, their information cannot fully undo the damage because comparatively few white citizens read the Negro press. And if all of them did, a large percentage conveniently would believe the Negro papers to be lying.

In situations like the Columbia Edgewood case, the general run of policemen feel that white women cannot lie where Negro men are supposed to be concerned. I recall, too, that a committee of about fifteen Negroes called on the late Governor Ibra C. Blackwood to seek leniency for a Negro who was supposed to have raped a white woman while holding a gun on her escort. As the only woman on the committee, I asked the governor pointedly if he thought he could rape a woman while holding a gun on her escort, or if he thought a man could hold him off at gun point as he criminally assaulted his wife.

He said he knew both to be impossible, but to say so publicly would be to say that "a white lady is lying." Therefore, he said that he could not interfere and that the Negro must go to the electric chair, which he did a few days later.

* * * *

This raises another question. When Governor G. Strom Thurmond declared the other day that he wants South Carolina womanhood protected, and so instructed his chief police officer, DID THE GOVERNOR ALSO INTEND THAT MR. TOWNSEND AND HIS ASSISTANTS SHALL SEE THAT NEGRO WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE PROTECTED FROM WHITE MALES? Is it at all possible for the general run of white South Carolinians to visualize a white man criminally assaulting a Negro woman, being convicted by a white court for so doing, and electrocuted for rape in an electric chair provided years ago, ostensibly for Negroes only? Sat. 7-12-47

South Carolina has electrocuted Negroes for ATTEMPTED CRIMINAL ASSAULT of white women (By the way, when a Southern jury does not take the life of a Negro convicted of rape or attempted rape, somebody has lied, and he is NOT AT ALL GUILTY. In every case, white rapists of Negro women have gone Scot free.

It is high time that all southern whites and Americans poisoned by them should realize that not all rapists are black. SOME ARE WHITE! And some of the white rapists DO RAPE NEGRO WOMEN! The South must know that Negro women can be raped by WHITE MEN!

And the South's white supremists must be taught that the color of the parties involved whether uni-racial or bi-racial, whether white man and black woman, or vice-versa, does not alter the gravity of the case. When this point shall have been reached, the white supremists and the race-baiters will gotten the RIGHT ANSWER. As it is now, the wagon is pulling the

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PALMETTO STATE

- By -
Modjeska M. Simkins

30h S.C.

Journal and Guide

Protection Of Womanhood In South Carolina Is Meaningless Where The Woman Involved Happens To Be Non-White, Says Writer

Norfolk, Va Sat. 8-16-47

COLUMBIA, S.C.—Speaking of two atrocious crimes against white females in the up-state, Governor G. Strom Thurmond said July 26, "Investigation of such savagery on the womanhood of South Carolina will be pushed with all the energy possible. Those who are capable of debasing the ladies of this state must know that the people of South Carolina will not tolerate these outrageous crimes." The chief executive noted that "municipal, county and state law enforcement officials have successfully investigated and apprehended those guilty in practically every previous crime of this nature since the beginning of my term of office

In direct contrast is the case of alleged attempted criminal assault of a 33-year-old Negro mother of six children by a white youth the latter part of May. Not a word has been said in press or radio releases about this case although it actually occured about the time of the reported attack in Edgewood. Despite sworn statements by the victim and the confession of the identified attacker that he was guilty, the attorneys for the prosecution during the preliminary hearing had to press for a charge of burglary when the magistrate wanted to place a charge of HOUSEBREAKING instead of attempted criminal assault. To the offender, the judge said, "You folks ought to know than to go around here BOTHERING THESE DARKIES . . . You should leave these people alone. There is NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO. I MUST BIND YOU over to high court."

Norfolk, Va

Negroes should exhibit growing concern because of the low "mark-up" put on ALL TYPES of "NEGRO WOMANHOOD" by the "chivalrous" South which will go any barbaric length to protect ANY TYPE of "WHITE WOMANHOOD" where a Negro male is the alleged culprit. This year, South Carolina has taken an extra heavy toll of Negroes in alleged ATTEMPTED criminal cases finds the refusal to even place the same charge where a Negro female was all but ravished by a white male. 8-16-47

Journal and Guide

On the other hand, in Greenville last week a white male handled a 5-year-old girl and propositioned a 10-year-old girl, both white, to go with him into nearby woods for a dollar" according to city and county officers. This man was charged with "indecent exposure." The funeral hymns already would have been sung over a Negro in a similar situation.

30h 1947 Wisconsin

7613

The Sex Criminal

30h, Wis.

Wisconsin has acted to hospitalize potential sex criminals before they can commit crimes.

Mon. 9-8-47

A measure just signed by the governor permits court examination of any person believed to be a sexual psychopath on petition of the district attorney, sexual psychopath being defined as one suffering from emotional instability or such a lack of customary standards of good judgment as to render him irresponsible for his sexual conduct and, therefore, dangerous to himself and others.

The Columbia Record
Columbia, S.C.

At the court hearing, which may be closed to the public, the accused psychopath is permitted counsel. The court also appoints two physicians to make an examination of the defendant. Appeal to the supreme court is open to persons found to be sexual psychopaths and the sentence is commitment to an institution. Mon. 9-8-47

The significant feature of the new law is that it regards the sexual psychopath as in the same class as a mentally ill rather than as an ordinary criminal. And where the criminal laws have failed to curb sex crimes this new Wisconsin statute may accomplish it.

7618

No Evidence Found To Link Negro Trio With Girl's Death

The News, Birmingham, Ala.
Mon. 1-20-47

30h(1)

The Tuscaloosa County sheriff's office, with city and state officers, were today pressing a search for new clues in the brutal slaying of Miss Martha Moseley, 29-year-old Holt girl, last Tuesday night, as a toxicologist's examination failed to produce incriminating evidence against three Negroes held as suspects in Jefferson County Jail.

Edward DeGraffenreid, outgoing Tuscaloosa circuit solicitor, said State Toxicologist C. D. Brooks had reported no human blood or other incriminating evidence was found on the clothes of the three Negroes. Clothes bearing blood stains had been found at the home of two of the Negroes, and half-burned garments, some of them pieces of a woman's clothing, had been found near the home of the third.

Meanwhile, the Tuscaloosa sheriff's office reported officers were called to Holt late Saturday night to investigate reports that several shots had been fired near the spot where Miss Mosely was murdered. Sheriff's deputies said they were told by residents a cross had also been burned in the area. Investigating officers were unable to ascertain further facts about the incident, they said.

MR. DeGRAFFENREID SAID he was turning all evidence in the case over to J. Monroe Ward, who succeeds him as circuit solicitor today. The toxicologist's report will be submitted to the Grand Jury when it convenes in Tuscaloosa tomorrow, he said.

A man's overcoat has been found about 100 yards from where Miss Moseley's body was discovered, Mr. DeGraffenreid said, and city, county and state officers are pressing their search for its owner.

The three Negro suspects were arrested Thursday and brought to Jefferson County Jail for "safekeeping." Mr. DeGraffenreid said he believed it would be the responsibility of the Grand Jury to take whatever action it thought proper in regard to the suspects.

The body of Miss Moseley, a soda fountain employe at Tuscaloosa, was found battered and only half-clad by a searching party Wednesday night, after the young woman had been reported missing about 20 hours. She had been last seen leaving a bus near her home Tuesday night. Mon. 1-20-47

The Tuscaloosa County coroner reported she had been beaten in the face, criminally attacked, and choked with a handkerchief.

Negro Held For Bond After Attempted Attack

The News, Birmingham, Ala.

Charged with assault with intent to ravish a Shades Mountain white woman, Elmore McClung, 60-year-old Negro, no address listed, was being held in Jefferson County Jail yesterday afternoon under $10,000 bond. 30h(1) Fri. 1-31-47

The attack was reported by the woman's husband, who said his wife had escaped from the Negro and phoned him at his downtown office. The woman said McClung was helping her move furnriture at her home when the attempted attack occurred. She said she ran downstairs and locked herself in a room where she called her husband. Fri. 1-31-47

Woman Found Slain, Assaulted Near Tuscaloosa

30h(1)

Searchers Find Body In Thicket; Victim Choked To Death

News 1-16-47-Th.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Jan. 16—City and county officers, joined by state highway patrolmen, today pressed search for the brutal slayer of an attractive Tuscaloosa drugstore employe, whose body was found near her home in nearby Holt last night, nearly 24 hours after she had been beaten about the head, choked with a kerchief knotted around her neck and criminally attacked. Birmingham, Ala.

The victim, Miss Martha Moseley, 27, had been missing since Tuesday night and was last reported seen as she alighted from a bus at 10:15 p.m., several hundred yards from her home.

about 8 o'clock last night by Clarence Hunton, 27, Holt Foundry employe and a member of a searching party hastily organized when members of her family reported her disappearance tothe sheriff's office late yesterday afterrnoon.

The body, drenched by an overnight rain and intermittent showers throughout the day, was lying in a pine thicket near the Holt High School. Tuscaloosa County Sheriff R. G. Parker said it was evident the girl had put up a terrific struggle with her assailant. News Birmingham, Ala.

THE GIRL'S OVERCOAT was found last night near the scene of the slaying, Sheriff Parker said. Pockets were empty, as was a purse which was found yesterday morning on a dirt road before the discovery of the body about 75 yards away, the sheriff said. A handkerchief which she had worn over her head was found later in the day yesterday. 1-16-47-Th.

Coroner S. T. Hardin said the woman had been beaten about the head, choked and criminally attacked. Part of her clothing had been torn away, he said.

No suspects were arrested immediately, according to Sheriff Parker who said the slaying was one of the most brutal he had ever investigated.

"We're going to crack this case, no matter how long it takes," he added.

* * *

MISS MOSELEY WAS DESCRIBED as a small person, brown-haired and attractive. Survivors include her mother, who is an invalid, and a sister, Miss Janie Mosely, who is employed at the same drug store as was the victim.

Members of the family here said they did not become alarmed when Miss Moseley did not return home Tuesday night, believing she had spent the night with other relatives in Tuscaloosa, as she had done frequently in the past.

However, upon the finding of her purse and kerchief, the sheriff's office was notified. About the time the body was found, an estimated 500 men had gathered near the high school.

Assisting Sheriff Parker in the investigation of the case are State Highway Patrol Division Chief C. M. Thorsen and Investigator Oliver T. McDuff, both of Birmingham, C. D. Brooks, of the State Department of Toxicology, Birmingham, Patrol Inspector W. F. Dyar, Patrolmen Edgar Skinner and J. A. Daugherty, and Deputies W. F. Wright, Charlie Saunders and Elmer Brewer.

Coroner Hardin said an autopsy would be performed today.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by Jones-Speigner Funeral Home.

Law Continues Slaying Probe In Tuscaloosa

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
Fri. 1-17-47
30h(1)

Negroes Are Questioned Concerning Attack On Brunette

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., Jan. 16—Three Negroes were arrested here today and questioned on the slaying and criminal assault of Miss Martha Mosley, pretty 27-year-old employe of a Tuscaloosa drug store, Sheriff W. F. Wright, disclosed tonight.

They were released later, Sheriff Wright said.

Miss Mosley, whose battered, partly-clad body was found last night in a wooded area near her home in Holt, Ala., disappeared Tuesday night. A searching party, formed about 7 p.m. yesterday, found her body in a clump of trees in the woods through which she had to go on her way home from the bus stop.

Meanwhile, State Highway Patrol Inspector W. F. Dyer predicted that "an early arrest would be made."

"We have a definite suspect in mind, but so far we have been unable to locate him for questioning," Dyer said.

Mrs. Ernest Rogers, who lives approximately one mile from Miss Mosley's home, told police that the comely brunette left the bus near the Holt High School. Passengers who were on the bus said that she was the only one who alighted at that point, but several others, including some Negroes, left at the next bus stop.

The girl's disappearance was not reported to police until about 3 p.m. yesterday, when her sister, Janie Sue, and her employer, Jimmie Harrison, became alarmed. The Advertiser

The sister said that she was not concerned over Miss Mosley Tuesday night because she believed that she had stayed with relatives in Tuscaloosa over-night. Tues. 1-17-47

Miss Mosley's body was found about 200 yards from the Holt High School. Her purse was found in the road Wednesday morning by Bob Jennings, foundry employe. He took the purse to the foundry to dry it and tried to find the owner. It was hours later before he found out who it had belonged to. Montgomery, Ala.

Tuscaloosa police, deputies and state highway patrolmen are working on the investigation.

Officials have theorized that the attacker had been spotting the sleight girl for some time before the murder. Coroner S. T. Hardin reported that she died of a brain concussion, and that she was "choked by a handkerchief, beaten about the face and criminally assaulted." 30h(1) Ala. The Advertiser

He also said that the body was not moved from the time that the attack occurred until it was discovered. Montgomery, Ala.

Miss Mosley is survived by her invalid mother, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Mosley; and two sisters, Janie Sue Mosley, Holt, and Mrs. David Smith, of Tuscaloosa. Fri. 1-17-47

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. today. Burial will be in Hopewell Cemetery near Holt,

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Negro Confesses To Assault Charge

The Advertiser
Montgomery

CARROLLTON, ALA., April 13.—(AP)—A Negro identified as Walter Harris, 25, of Stansel, Ala., confessed today before Pickens County Sheriff Guy Hood to the assault of Mrs. Joe Jennings, 32, also of Stansel, Deputy Sheriff John Hollingsworth said.

Harris was captured in a house near here about 9:30 a.m. today following an all-night search in which bloodhounds and law enforcement officers from several counties participated. Mon.

Sheriff Hood said last night the Negro slashed the throat of Mrs. Jennings, the mother of two small children, as she stepped from her rural home to get water from a well. Her screams frightened the assailant away; but before he fled he stabbed her in the back, the sheriff said. 4-14-47

The wounded woman was taken to a private physician for treatment. Her condition today was reported satisfactory.

Hollingsworth said the Negro had been removed from the county but declined to say where he had been jailed. Harris was charged with assault with weapon and attempted rape, the deputy said. 4-14-47

St. Clair Sheriff Says Negro Has Confessed Attack On Woman

Nashville Banner
Fri. 3-7-47
30h(1)

A confession to the criminal attack on a young white woman of the Pell City community has been made by a 28-year-old Negro held in Jefferson County Jail, St. Clair County Sheriff Ira Davis said.

The "complete confession" came last night after Davis had questioned the suspect, Robert E. Hunley, of Easonville. Hunley was brought to the jail here yesterday after a threat of mob violence flared at the Pell City jail. The Negro was struck in the arm by a bullet which ricocheted in the cell.

Arrival of state highway patrolmen and a heavy downpour of rain was believeid to have prevented further violence. Nashville, Tenn.

A warrant charging rape was sworn out yesterday against Hunley. The Negro will be kept here until his trial.

The Negro is charged with raping an Easonville farm woman Wednesday while her husband was plowing about a mile away. The woman told the sheriff the Negro held a knife on her and threatened to kill her if she made any outcry. He left the vicinity on a bicycle and was arrested at a filling station where he was employed.

A crowd of more than 300 persons gathered at the jail shortly after hearing news of the Negro's attack on the woman, who was pregnant, the sheriff said. Two officers were inside the jail questioning the Negro when three shots were fired. One of the bullets glanced and striking Hunley in the arm.

Jury To Investigate Alleged Rape Attempt

B'ham, Ala. News

PHENIX CITY, Ala., June 18—(AP)—An investigation was planned today by a special session of the Russell County, Grand Jury into the reported attempt by a Negro to rape a Hurtsboro housewife and the attempt by a mob to lynch the Negro. 30h(1) Wed. 6-18-47

The Negro, Jimmy Harris, 19, was rescued from the mob June 10 by Mayor Hurt Vann and three companions. Harris had been seized by the mob after the 33-year-old matron reported he entered her home and attempted to rape her.

Harris was placed in the state prison at Kilby on a charge of attempted rape. Wed. 6-18-47

Police Hunt For Attacker Of Woman In Trailer

Birmingham
Mon. 10-18-47

Police today are searching for a 28-year-old, slim Negro who last night attempted to rape a 50-year-old woman in a trailer parked on the Northside. 30h(1) Ala.

The victim told police that she had been living in the trailer and had been outside when the man followed her inside and attempted to attack her.

The woman's screams frightened the man away, she told police, and he fled on foot. He was last seen running west in Seventh Alley from North 18th Street.

What is it that they've got...

Los Angeles Tribune Sat. 6-14-47

Another Negro charged with rape

Los Angeles, Calif.

HURTSBORO, Ala.—'The Dixie Negro is a persistent fella,' or so the southern white would have us believe. 30K(1)

This week of Our Lord, following on three weeks in which the lynch fever has laid low over the South, still another Negro was arrested on an attempted rape charge. The victim, a middle-aged white woman, said a Negro attempted to assault her in her on home. She screamed, she said, and neighbors ran into the house and rescued her.

The "neighbors", who are as yet unidentified, took 18-year-old Jimmy Harris, said to have been in the house at the time of the alleged attempted rape, and put a rope around his neck.

He was rescued by the town's mayor, himself, Hurt Vann, with the assistance of three other white men. Sat. 6-14-47

Harris was then transferred to Kilby prison at Montgomery "for his own protection".

Bizarre, isn't it?

Burglary, Attempted

Bham. News-Age-Herald

Rape Charged Negro

Sun. 6-22-47

ATHENS, Ala. June 21—Charges of night-time burglary and assault with intent to ravish were filed today against Norman Malone, 18, Negro, accused of forcing his way into the room of a Limestone County school teacher Friday night.

The Negro, a tenant on the L. S. Sandlin farm south of Athens, was arrested today by State Highway Patrol Investigator R. A. Troupe and placed in the county jail.

Warrants for the Negro were sworn out by James S. Sandlin, brother of Miss Bertha Sandlin, 35, who told officers she saw a Negro in her room when she was suddenly awakened Friday night. The Negro, she said, fled when she snapped on a flashlight and screamed. 30K(1) Sun. 6-22-47

State Highway Patrolmen Troupe and R. E. Beasley said the Negro admitted entering the house, but stated he was merely after food.

Preliminary hearing is set before County Judge D. L. Rosenau, Jr., next Friday morning.

Youth, 19, Gets

Courier-Journal

20-Year Term

Louisville Ky.

Phenix City, Ala., June 18 (AP)

Jimmy Harris, 19-year-old Negro who was rescued from a mob at near-by Hurtsboro a week ago, was given a 20-year prison sentence today on a charge of assault to ravish in connection with an alleged attempt to rape a white woman. 30K(1)

Circuit Judge J. S. Williams imposed the sentence shortly after a grand jury had indicted the youth, who was brought here from Kilby Prison.

Harris was seized by a mob of "about 25" white persons after a 33-year-old housewife reported he entered her home and attempt to rape her. Thur. 6-19-47

Mayor Hugh Vann, who helped rescue Harris, said the mob had a rope around his neck and was beating him.

Negro Held At Kilby In Gadsden Assault

30K(1) Ala.

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

Warden Tennyson Dennis, of Kilby Prison, said late today a Negro prisoner was being detained at Kilby for the Gadsden police department pending trial on a charge of attempted assault. Thur. 9-3-47

Dennis said the Negro, Curtis McElderry, had been on parole since July, 1944, from a burglary sentence of from 15 to 25 years. Chief of Police Fay Boman, of Gadsden, told prison officials the Negro had been jailed in Gadsden because of domestic troubles, the warden reported.

Boman said while the Negro was being held in Gadsden a white woman, who had been the victim of a recent assault attempt, identified McElderry as her assailant, Dennis continued.

Attorney Fights For Negro's Life

Birmingham Ala.

Thurs. 7/31/47

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 31—(AP)—Gov. James E. Folsom was asked yesterday to spare the life of a young Calhoun County Negro scheduled to die Friday for raping a white girl because of the "unusual circumstances of his case."

The 20-year-old Negro, Leroy Scott, was given the death sentence for raping a 19-year-old Louisville, Miss., white girl near Anniston.

Defense Atty. Walter Merrill told the governor he believed the ends of justice would be better served if Scott's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment for several reasons. 30K(1)

Explaining what he referred to as the unusual circumstances, Merrill said the alleged rape took place near the Anniston city dump, "one of the toughest places in our town" after the girl and a male companion had been there for four or five hours at night.

He said the girl, an employe of the Anniston Ordnance Depot, admitted that she and her companion had been drinking after they drove a car to the vicinity of the dump.

"The evidence shows that Scott used no weapon to force her to submit to him and that she neither cried out nor screamed and walked about a city block with him away from where the car had been parked." Thurs. 7/31/47

Merrill said since three Negroes were involved, one a 15-year-old boy who was not indicted, the death sentence was excessive for Scott, when a companion, Lee Curtis Williams, received only life imprisonment. B'ham. News

Circuit Solicitor J. J. Cockrell replied that Scott was the "ringleader." Thurs. 7/31/47

The solicitor built his case largely on the contention Scott had been convicted at a quiet orderly trial, there was no "racial prejudice" or hatred injected into it, and the Supreme Court had reviewed the record and found no error in it.

Negro Faces Trial On Attack Charge

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala. - Sun-8-17-1947

PELL CITY, Ala., Aug. 16—The trial of a 28-year-old Easonville Negro charged with criminally attacking a pregnant white woman on April 30, is scheduled to begin here Monday. Circuit Judge H. J. Disque, of Gadsden, will preside.

At the time of the arrest of the Negro filling station attendant, Robert E. Huntley, possible mob violence was narrowly averted. A downpour of rain and the arrival of state highway patrolmen caused the mob of several hundred persons to disperse. Sun-8-17-47

However, while deputies questioned Huntley in jail, three shots were fired through the cell window. One of the shots inflicted a slight flesh wound in the Negro's leg. He was then rushed to Birmingham to be held for safe keeping.

The woman asserted the Negro attacked her at knife point while her husband was working in a nearby field.

Baldwin County Posse Hunts Negro Attacker

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala

BAY MINETTE, ALA., Sept. 11—(AP)—Sheriff Taylor Wilkins, of Baldwin County, said tonight a posse was searching near here for an unidentified Negro accused of attacking a white woman at a filling station on Highway 31.

Wilkins said the woman told him she was alone when the Negro "apparently drunk" walked into the station and grabbed her. The sheriff quoted her as saying the attacker started dragging her across the highway toward a wooded area. 30K(1)

Near the edge of the highway she grabbed a tree and wrapped her arms around it. She was struggling against the force of the Negro pulling her she told the officer, when an unidentified naval officer and his wife drove by in a car. The naval officer stopped and ran to the assistance of the woman. Fri. 9-12-47

As he was about to make a flying tackle, the woman said the Negro saw him and fled into the woods.

Negro Boy Arrested For Attempted Assault

Montgomery Advertiser

30K(1)

Montgomery, Ala.

GADSDEN, ALA., Sept. 6.—(AP) A 15-year-old Negro youth sought for the alleged attempted rape of a 41-year-old white woman has been arrested in Carroll County, Ga., Sheriff Ira C. Ballard said.

Ballard said the youth, whom he identified as Art Hendricks of the Ball Play community, about 12 miles northeast of here, was arrested by State Investigator Harry Lee and Etowah Sheriff's Deputy Herbert Burns yesterday.

Hendricks was charged with assault with intent to ravish and placed in the Etowah County jail here. Sun. 9-7-47

The sheriff said the alleged assault occurred last Sunday afternoon at the woman's farm home in Ball Play and that peace officers sought the Negro for five days.

Monroe County Negro Held On Attack Charge

BAY MINETTE, Ala., Sept. 16—(AP)—Sheriff Taylor Wilkins reported today that a 22-year-old Monroe County Negro had been jailed here on a charge of assault with intent to rape in connection with an alleged attack upon a white woma nnear the Spanish Fort community. 30K(1)

He identified the Negro as Este Mose and said he had obtained an oral confession from him in the case. Tues - 9-16-47

He is being held without bond, the sheriff said, and a preliminary hearing will be held in a few days before Justice of the Peace F. P. Propst in Bay Minette.

Wilkins said the alleged assault took place near a filling station on State Highway 31 last Thursday. He said a naval officer driving by rescued the woman after the Negro had dragged her across the road toward the woods. Tues - 9-16-47

A posse was formed last Thursday to hunt for the assailant, but Taylor said it was dispersed after an arrest had been made, and that there had been no trouble.

Monroe Negro Jailed On Assault Charge

30K(1)

BAY MINETTE, ALA., Sept. 17.—(AP)—A 22-year-old Monroe County Negro was being held in the county jail without bond here awaiting arraignment on a charge of assault with intent to rape in connection with an alleged attack upon a white woman. Montgomery Advertiser

Sheriff Taylor Wilkins said the Negro was listed as Este Mose and had been arrested in Mobile. He will be given a hearing in a few days before Justice of the Peace F. P. Propst in Bay Minette. Montgomery, Ala.

Wilkins said he had obtained an oral confession from the Negro in the case. Thurs. 9-18-47

The sheriff said the alleged assault took place at a filling station on State Highway 31, near Spanish Fort community last Thursday. He said a naval officer driving by rescued the woman after the Negro had dragged her across the road towards the woods.

A 27-year-old Negro arrested in the case Thursday night has been cleared and was released, Wilkins said.

7619

Second Negro Jailed In Arkansas Slaying

[illegible]

FORREST CITY, Ark., May 24 — (AP)—Police questioned a second Negro Saturday about the knife slaying of Mrs. Ethel Ellis Boyd, 35-year-old cab company owner and driver. Sanity tests were planned for Willie Lee Duke, the farm hand charged with her murder.

Sheriff R. W. West said the second man was arrested after reports circulated that he was with Duke on the night of the slaying.

The man denied being in Duke's company, the sheriff reported.

Sheriff West said Duke admitted slashing Mrs. Boyd's throat from the back seat of her cab and then trying unsuccessfully to rape her.

The woman's body was found in a country road ditch early Thursday. 30h(1) Sat. 5-24-47

Duke was seized by a sheriff's posse after an eight-hour manhunt through East Arkansas' dense woodlands. He was moved to an undisclosed jail for safe keeping.

[illegible]

Held in Undisclosed Jail

FORREST CITY, Ark., May 23. (U.P.): William L. Dukes, negro navy veteran, was held in an undisclosed jail for safekeeping today while first-degree murder charges were filed against him here in the rape-slaying of a blonde woman taxi driver. 30h [illegible]

Prosecuting Attorney J. H. Moody said the negro, who confessed the crime and said "I don't know why I did it," would be taken later to the state hospital for nervous diseases at Little Rock for observation.

Dukes had been captured late yesterday. Sat. 5. 24. 47

Negro Transferred To State Hospital For Safe Keeping

[illegible]

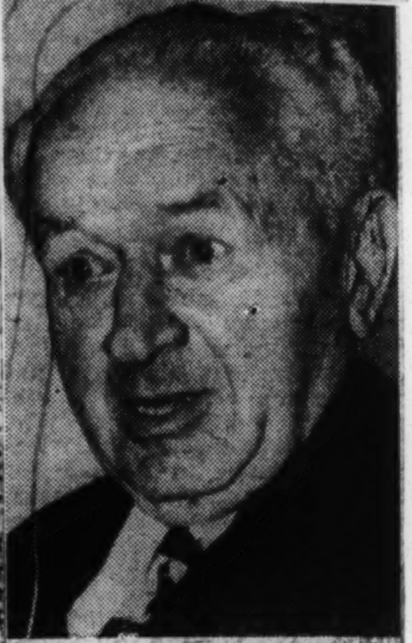
30h(1) Ark

Forrest City, (Ark.,) May 23 (AP)—The Circuit Court today ordered the transfer of Willie Lee Duke, 31, Negro farmhand charged with slaying a white woman, from an undisclosed jail to a State hospital.

Prosecuting Attorney J. J. Moody said the order was signed by Judge Davis Plummer after a criminal information had been filed charging Duke with the first-degree murder of Mrs. Ethel Ellis Boyd, a taxicab driver whose body was found yesterday morning in a country roadside ditch.

Moody said the decision to commit the Negro to the State Hospital for Nervous Diseases at Little Rock, where he will remain until his trial, was taken to safeguard the defendant.

The Negro will go on trial June 23, the prosecutor said, if psychiatric examinations establish his sanity. Sat. 5-24-47



Associated Press Wirephoto.

30h(1) Sat. 5-24-47

Superior Court Judge Sylvain Lazarus, San Francisco, said he was "gravely disturbed" that acquittal of South Carolina lynch-trial defendants was "an instance of atrocity and injustice deserving attention of all decent American people."

Guilty Plea Reported By Arkansas Negro

Bham. Ala. News.

30h(1)

FORREST CITY, Ark., June 13—Moody said last night that Willie Lee Duke, 31-year-old Negro farm hand, pleaded guilty yesterday to the murder of Mrs. Frank Boyd, Forrest City taxicab operator last May 22. Fri. 6-13-47

Under Arkansas law a jury must be empaneled to fix punishment in pleas of guilty to capital offenses. Duke may be sentenced to death or to life imprisonment.

Mrs. Boyd's body, the throat slashed, was found near Forrest City and about a mile from her wrecked cab early May 23. Moody said Duke admitted slaying, robbing and attempting to rape her after engaging her cab.

30h(1) 1947

California

7620

Negro Attacks Wac Who Drove Eisenhower Car

The News

Birmingham, Ala.

Fri. 2-14-47

Attempt Frustrated When Another Girl Screams Alarm

30h(1)

Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 14—(AP)—Deputy Sheriff J. Daley said today that Capt. Kay Summersby, who was a driver and secretary for Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower during the war, was the Wac officer whom a former Hamilton Field janitor attempted to criminally attack at the Army Air Base Wednesday morning.

The Marin County Deputy Sheriff said Capt. Summersby was choked but escaped further mistreatment when the screams of another Wac frightened her Negro assailant away. The incident occurred in the Wac barracks, according to a report made by Deputy Sheriff Joseph Williams. Fri. 2-14-47

The former janitor is Marion Bryant, 21, of Marin City, who, Marin County Sheriff Walter B. Sollmer says, signed a statement admitting he had raped two women and attempted to commit similar assaults on three others.

Bryant was arraigned yesterday on two charges of rape, two of attempted rape and four of breaking and entering. His bail was set at $20,000. The News

Capt. Summersby, now assistant public relations officer at Hamilton Field, is a tall, English brunet who is scheduled to receive her naturalization papers in November.

She was Gen. Eisenhower's secretary and chauffeur during the war and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Wac in November, 1944. Birmingham, Ala.

Girl claims attack in daylight

Los Angeles, Calif

30h(1)

Tribune

Dixie's rape hysteria has touched Southern California, it was learned this week, resulting in the holding of a 22-year-old Negro on an assult with a deadly weapon charge. Sat. 6-14-47

Jailed, because he can't make bail, until his trial June 30 in superior court is Norman Teems, of 1706 E. 42nd st. Teems is accused by Mrs. Thelma Schwartz, of Belvedere, of hitting her on the head with a rock and of trying to push her into a nearby booth, ostensibly with the intention of raping her.

Teems at first admitted to the charge, but said in Belvedere court last Friday that he did so only after police beat him. He said he was nowhere near the woman when she was struck, but was picked up on the street by police when he came out of his place of employment for lunch. The alleged attack occured at noon at an open interurban station.

Mrs. Schwartz said she was waiting for the car and Teems was standing about 10 feet away from her, also waiting. Offering no reason why, she said she kept her eye on him until the car approached when she turned to watch it. As she turned, she said the attack took place. Sat. 6-14-47

Teem's wife, Vernoa, a car wash rack worker, said she saw her husband in jail and his eye was blackened and his head swollen from blows he told her were inflicted by police officers.

Teem's employer, Hobart W. Rude, who attended the preliminary hearing, said he saw the man about five days after the alleged assault, but could not tell if he had been beaten or not. He said Teems had worked for him in various capacities over a year, and he did not believe him guilty of the charge.

NEW TRIAL FOR SAN FRANCISCO MAN CHARGED WITH WAC's RAPE

Sat 7-26-47

Los Angeles Tribune - Los Angeles - Cal

SAN FRANCISCO—A new trial date has been set for Marion Bryant, 21-year-old ex-serviceman chargd with the attempted rape of WAC Capt. Katherine Summersby at Hamilton field Feb. 11. The date, set by federal judge Michael Roche after Bryant's first trial ended in a deadlocked jury, is Aug. 11.

30h(1) Calif.

The jury, which voted 9 to three foi an acquittal, was composed of 8 men and four women, including two Negroes, two Chinese and a World War II veteran.

Main basis of the government's case is a confession, which Bryant now repudiates, contending that FBI agents and Marin county deputy sheriffs beat it out of him.

Sat. 7-26-47

The attempted rape took place in the laundry room of the WAC barracks where Bryant's wife had worked at one time. Both the victim and a Red Cross worker, Cynthia Palmer, who interrupted the attack, admit they did not see the attacker's features.

A Lt. McManimery had chased a man answering Bryant's description out of the laundry room earlier in the evening.

Alleged Rapist To Get Retrial

Chicago Defender

California Vet's Hearing August 11

Chicago Ill

SAN FRANCISCO — Federal Judge Michael Rocho last week set August 11 as the date for retrial of Marion Bryant, 21, ex-serviceman charged with the attempted rape of WAC Capt. Katherine Summersby at Hamilton Field last Feb. 11.

30h(1) Calif.

In Bryant's first trial June 5, a deadlocked jury, out seven hours voted 9 to 3 for acquittal. The jury consisted of eight men and four women, including two Negroes, two Chinese and a World War II veteran.

Basis of the government's case is a repudiated confession which Bryant says FBI agents and Marin County deputy sheriffs beat out of him. Sat. 7-26-47

In the original trial U. S. Atty. Dan Deasey admitted that Captain Summersby and Red Cross Worker Cynthia Palmer did not see the features of the "tall Negro" who attempted to rape the WAC captain in the Hamilton Field WAC barracks laundry room.

Attorney for the defense, George Anderson, raised the question of why the government withheld the statement of Captain Summersby that she scratched the face of her attacker. No marks were found on Bryant's face at the time of his arrest. A fingerprint found on the window sill of the laundry room was not presented as evidence by the government though Bryant was four times fingerprinted. Sat

The defendant declares that he was stripped to the waist by law officers and beaten with the threat "If you don't talk, we'll take you into the next room and hang you like they do down south." 7-26-

Asst. U. S. Attorney Joseph Karis, also engaged in the prosecution, is a South Carolina native who came here in 1930. He shouted during one point in the trial that, in connection with the recent acquittal in his home state of confessed lynchers: "I make no apology for South Carolina." He accused Anderson of dragging in the race issue when the defense attorney reminded the court that "this is San Francisco where Negroes and Chinese serve on juries. The people must look at the evidence fairly and acquit Bryant" who, Anderson said, was arrested "just because he is a Negro."

30h(1)

En Route

7621

Georgia Trial For Archer Attracts Nation's Attention

30h(1) The Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Ga. Thur 8-14-47

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Under present War Department policy, any soldier, who is accused of crime or offense committed within the geographical limits of the states or the Dist. of Columbia and punishable by the law of the land, will be surrendered to civil authorities for trial.

The War Department made this relevation last Tuesday in connection with the case of Pfc. Herbert L. Archer Jr., who is being held in jail at Leesburg, Georgia, on a charge of attempted assault on a woman aboard a passenger train en route from Chanute Field, Illinois, to MacDill Field, Florida.

A report of an investigation, made by officers from MacDill Field and submitted to the War Department, denies the statement of Archer that his life was threatened. It states that there was no local reaction to the case in Albany, Georgia, where Archer was taken off the train and first placed in jail. Thur-8-14-47

Army investigators were told by the Solicitor General of Leesburg County that Archer is being held under a warrant charging "assault with intent to rape," which is a felony in Georgia. A grand jury will be convened and will return against him either a "true bill" or "no bill." If a true bill is returned, he will be tied at the session of the Leesburg County Court immediately following the grand jury's report.

The investigators pointed out that under Georgia law a person held by criminal warrant for the action of a grand jury may at any time prior to the meeting of the grand jury demand and be gratified as a matter of of right, a hearing by a board of inquiry for a determination of whether his detention is legal.

30h(1) 1947

Florida

7622

SCHOOL TEACHER ATTACKED BY THUG ON WAY FROM SCHOOL

30h(1)
Fla.

The Fla. ~~Tattler~~

Thug Preying upon Helpless Victims In 400 Block West Union Street

Jacksonville, ~~Fla.~~ Sat. 5-17-47

Miss Lucile Haygood, teacher, A. L. Lewis Junior High School, was attacked by a short dark Negro on Friday night, May 9, in front of her home, 425 West Union Street.

It was reported that Miss Haygood had attended a teachers' banquet at Stanton High School and was on her way home when the thug ran after her at the corner of Clay and Union. She ran and fell in front of her home—the thug hit at her and was about to attack her when she screamed for her brother, Lloyd Howard and his wife, then the thug ran away.

It was also reported that two men were sitting on the porch across from Miss Haygood's and did not even move to help the helpless victim.

30h(1) 1947

General

7626

Savannah, Ga., News
June 6, 1947

ASSAULT STUDIES MADE BY NEGRO

30h(1) gen.

Economic, and Educational Background Blamed

RALEIGH, N. C., June 5 (UP).—A negro educator suggested today that the recent epidemic of attacks by negroes on white women in the South was largely due to poor economic background and lack of education.

The Rev. J. H. Jackson, a Raleigh minister who conducts pastoral psychotherapy classes at negro colleges, said he had conducted research on negro rapists and that "these facts continue to appear in each case:

"A definite oedipus complex, average formal education fourth or fifth grade, average mental age 10 to 12 years, poor economic conditions, and very poor religious background."

Jackson reported the results of his study in a letter to the Raleigh News and Observer.

He said, "We negro educators are not asleep" and "I am certain that all intelligent and serious-minded negroes are concerned about rape and the attempts to rape."

More than ten cases of rape or attempted rape have broken into the news in North Carolina alone within the past few days. Others were reported in neighboring states. Negroes were the alleged attackers in most of the cases.

Lynching

30h(1) gen.

Thurs. 6-19-47

Editor Constitution: The South has for scores of years used lynching as its weapon to curtail or stop attacks upon white women by Negro men. While the law has handled the big portion of the criminals, the results have been short sentences in the chain gang. The attacks and attempts get worse. Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

It's no wonder the good people of Georgia and the Carolinas are taking the cases in their own hands. The traditions of the South can't be changed in a fortnight.

JAMES L. MATHIS.

Chauncey.

Doubt Wave of Rape Attempts

Black-Dispatch

30h(1) gen.

RICHMOND, Va. — (ANP) — Many people in this city since the first press releases on Godwin (Buddy) Bush's escape from prison in Rich Square, N. C., have expressed doubt as to the truthfulness of several reports of attacks on white women in various parts of the south. In some instances the reports just don't seem creditable, some say.

That so many attacks on white women with the intent to rape should suddently occur one after another make even some of our leaders in this city wonder how much of these reports are angled in news rooms and how much can be safely reguarded as objective reporting. Oklahoma City, Okla.

From 1888 to 1929 only 23 lynchings out of each 100 were reported to have been caused by alleged or attempt rape against women. During that period 3,693 persons were lynched. Of the 129 persons lynched from 1929 to 1946, according to the records of Tuskegee institute, 18 were charged with rape and 25 were charged with attempted rape. Those charged with both offenses made up only a little over a third of the number lynched. Sat. 6-14-47

In recent months some cases of alleged attacks on women by colored men have been found to be without foundation. In two cases within the past year the women involved admitted that they made the reports on attack under emotional strain and physical weakness. In one case in Virginia the Sat. 6-14-47 judge said that the circumstances surrounding the case were not convincing and that the white woman's testimony could not be relied on. He dismissed the charge against the colored man. 30h(1)

7623

Rape Charges Laid To Nine Youths

Atlanta, Ga.

A complaint by a young woman resident of Atlanta's West Side community brought the arrest of nine youths August 3 on a charge of rape which was committed according to the testimony of the victim on the campus of Booker T. Washington High School. Wed 9-6-47

The victim and Herman Harris, 27, 1058 Fair St., S. W., were crossing the Washington High Campus when they were stopped by the group of boys and a soldier. The soldier, the young woman told, held a razor around the neck of her companion Herman Harris, while they carried her into the grandstand of the Washington Park Baseball Stadium, where she was repeatedly assaulted.

Atlanta Military Police were holding Pvt. Norman J. Newton, 22 of the Washington Park Recreational Area, who was identified as the soldier involved in the incident. He was detained pending formal charges.

Atlanta Police arrested the following youths: Edward Holt, 15, 555 Atwood, SW.; Richard McBride, 18 1099 Washington Heights; James Dawkins, 18, 808 Greensferry, SW.; Douglas Jennings, 16, 1048 Lena St, SW.; Richard Dorsey ,17, 1076 Lena St., SW.; Calvin Turner, 17, 1098 Harwell St., SW.; Wilbert Crosby, alias "Peter Rabbit," 16, 508 Tatnall St., SW.; and James Williams, 18, alias "Popeye," of an Irwin Street address.

Two of the youths were turned over to Juvenile Court for investigation. The attack on the pair occurred about 11:24 p.m. Sunday night. Herman Harris, who was the companion of the young woman was released without injury. The young woman later was examined at Grady Hospital and released.

The youths arrested were held on suspicion of rape.

Police Hold Man On Attempted Assault Charge

Atlanta Daily World

Tues 8-5-47

Atlanta, Ga.

Oliver Mitchell, 25 of 357 Fraser St., S. W. is being held by Police authroities on a charge of attempted assault on a white woman.

Officers, E. C. Carter and R. H. Fleming related that they went to 228 Woodard Avenue, S. W. around 11:30 p. m. Friday to investigate a report of a prowler in the neighborhood. Upon their arrival, the officers said that several witnesses stated that Mitchell had been about the neighborhood prowling, and was chased away by some of the men. They said further, reported the officers, that Mitchell had attempted to grab a white girl, Miss Doris Tuckett, 17 of 419 Rawson St., S. W.

Searching the neighborhood, the officers picked up Mitchell at Washington and Woodard Sts. and brought him to the scene where they claimed several of the witnesses identified him as the prowler and the man who attempted to grab Miss Turkett.

Mitchell was said to have had his shoes off at the time he was arrested. 8-5-47

Mob Gathers As Negro Is Arrested In Georgia

Birmingham News.

Pub. Birmingham Ala.

MARIETTA, Ga., July 23—(AP)—Police said they would seek indictments before the Cobb County Grand Jury today charging a 13-year-old Negro with assault with attempt to rape and assault with attempt to murder in an attack on a 60-year-old white woman.

Police Captain B. C. Wallace said the Negro, Charles Mozley, would not be brought here for the Grand Jury hearing but would remain in Fulton Tower in Atlanta, where he was rushed yesterday for safekeeping after he was surrounded by a mob of about 150 white men; some of them armed. Wed. 7-23-

Wallace said Mozley had been identified in Atlanta by the victim of the alleged attack and by two granddaughters, aged 11 and 9, who were helping the elderly woman pick berries on the outskirts of Marietta. 7-23-47

He quoted the woman as saying a Negro leaped from behind a clump of bushes and knocked her to the ground, but ran away when the two children left the field screaming.

Mozley was arrested at his house. Members of the mob made no effort to attack the Negro or halt police, Captain E. R. Sanders said.

Perry Youth Held On Assault Attempt Charge

Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

Constitution State News Service.

PERRY, Aug. 7—Sheriff C. C. Chapman said Thursday he had arrested a 17-year-old Negro on a charge of attempted criminal assault on a 16-year-old wife of a white man in the Haynesville community of Houston County.

He listed the Negro as J. D. Durham and said he had admitted the attempted attack.

Sheriff Chapman said the alleged attack occurred at the girl's farm home Wednesday afternoon while her husband was away at work. She was alone in the house at the time the Negro allegedly threatened her with death if she screamed, but he fled when she called for help. Tues 8-8-47

The Sheriff said Chief Chance, of Hawkinsville, arrested Durham early Thursday at Hawkinsville and that the alleged attacker was believed to be headed for Dodge County where he has relatives. Sheriff Chapman declined to say where Durham is being held, but said he did not expect any trouble.

Youth Held On Assault Charge

PERRY Ga.—(SNS)—A 17-year-old Negro youth was held in an undisclosed Jail after a reported attempted criminal attack against a 16-year-old wife of a white man in the Haynesville community near Houston county.

Atlanta Daily World

The arrest of the youth, J. D. Durham, was reported by Sheriff C. C. Chapman, who in announcing details of the arrest stated that the Durham, had admitted the attempted attack. Atlanta, Ga.

Sheriff Chapman said the alleged attack occurred at the girl's farm home Wednesday afternoon while her husband was away at work. The woman stated that she was alone in the house when the youth allegedly threatened her with death if she screamed, but he fled when she called for help. Tues. 8/12/47

Durham, was arrested early Thursday at Hawkinsville, where police reported he was believed head for Dodge county where he has relatives.

No announcement was made regarding any mob action and Sheriff Chapman has declined to say where Durham is being held, but said he did not expect any trouble.

Change Of Venue Denied In Marietta Youth's Case

Atlanta, Ga.

Atlanta Daily World

MARIETTA, Ga.—(SNS)— A motion for a change of venue in the case of the state against 13-year old Charles Mozley, Marietta youth accused of attempting to attack a 72-year-old white grandmother, was denied Tuesday in Cobb County courthouse. Wed. 7-30-47

The motion came at the start of the tria. for Mozley, a quick and unheralded action by Cobb County authorities whch was interpreted as a vote to get a confession from the youth and quickly dispose of the case.

Dan Duke, famed Klan-busting former state assistant attorney general, made the motion to change the place of trial for young Mozley. He argued that the presence of an armed mob in the vicinity of Mozley's arest was enough to prejudice a jury trial in Cobb County where the crime was alleged to have occurred.

Mozley was present during the rearing and the courthouse was over three-fourths full of white people, only a few Negroes being present.

NOT HUNTING SQUIRREL

Duke made the point time and time again that the armed Cobb Countains who approached the car bearing the youth to an Atlanta jail, "were not hunting squirrels."

Denial of the motion by presiding Judge J. H. Hawkins, of the Blue Ridge circuit, made mandatory continuance of the trial at a time following a ruling by the Georgia Supreme Court. The high court will not meet again until fall, and the Mozley trial would have to follow the ruling counsel pointed out.

H. J. Vandiviere is solicitor of the Blue Ridge Circuit and will prosecute the case. Wed -7-30-47

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People secured counsel for the accused youth who has consistently denied the charge placed against him.

Aged Nurse Is Violated in Home By Bedroom Invader, She Reports

Mon. 7/28/47

Atlanta Constitution - Atlanta, Ga.

With an aged Richardson Street woman in Piedmont Sanitarium in a critical condition, police have launched another investigation into criminal assaults upon women in their homes. Mon. 7-28-47

The attack on the Richardson Street woman, which occurred sometime between 3 a. m. and 6 a. m. Sunday, was the second of the kind to succeed in Atlanta homes in the past three weeks, while there have been several unsuccessful attempts made recently, police records reveal.

The woman, a trained nurse, said she was alone in her home. Awakening about midnight, Saturday, she said she read for two or three hours and then started to go back to sleep. Suddenly, she said, someone came through her bedroom window and started beating her and had rendered her almost unconscious when he consummated the criminal attack.

The man left the room by the same window he had entered, police were told. The woman said she then sank into unconsciousness, and when she regained consciouness about 6 a. m., she roused neighbors by calling for help.

The woman told police she did not clearly see her assailant, but thought he was a Negro.

A Grady ambulance surgeon rendered first aid to the victim, and she was taken to Piedmont Sanitarium. Physicians said she was suffering from multiple bruises about the head, face and body.

Assaults Cases Plague Police

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

Over the weekend two cases of criminal assault and one of attempted assault were reported to City Police headquarters.

A 25-year-old woman of Alpine Place, S. W., reported to officers that an unknown man at the threat of a knife forced her to the rear of Puritan Mills on Mangum Street, Friday night and criminally assaulted her. Tues. 9-2-47

The victim, who was examined at Grady hospital where medics conferred her charge, said her attacker was about 25 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches in height and was wearing overalls, a blue shirt and a cap embellished with buttons.

Police arrested David Clark, 23, of a Welch Street address, Friday and booked him on suspicion of rape. Clark's arrest followed charges by two Middle Street young girls one 18 years old, the other 13 that someone entered their room about 2 a. m. Friday and attempted to assault both.

The third charge was made by a 16-year-old Randolph Street resident, who told officers that two boys accosted her at 82½ McDaniel St., Saturday night and both attacked and robbed her. Examination at Grady hospital disclosed positive evidence of the charge the report said. Tues. 9-2-47

Leo Andrew Smith, 18, of 595 Edgewood Avenue, N. E., and Carroll Lee Simmons, 21 of 82½ McDaniel St., were arrested in connection with the case. Both were booked on suspicion of rape. 9-2-47

Man, 23, Held On Assault On Baby

Daily World

City police are holding Cornelius Reed, 23 of a Howell Street address on suspicion of attacking a four-year old girl. Atlanta, Ga.

The baby girl was brought by her mother Tuesday to Grady hospital where examination disclosed positive evidence that she was the victim of an attempted assault.

The mother told officers that she was in back of the house washing clothes when she was attracted by the crying of her baby daughter. At that time Reed was the only other person in the house, she said.

The child was attempting to enter the bathroom, asserted the mother when she stopped her and asked what was the matter. After her daughter had told the shocking story, naming Reed as her attacker, the mother said she examined her baby's clothing and found blood stains thereon. Daily World

I approached Reed immediately and asked him if the story were true, the mothed said. He flatly denied the accusation and suggested that I take the child to a hospital. Thurs. 8-28-47

Following the examination officers went to the Howell Street residence where the three lived and arrested Reed. Atlanta, Ga.

Man Held On Charge Of Criminal Attack

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Columbus Barker, 20 of 79 Hammock Street, was being held by Atlanta police Monday on a charge of criminal assault following the compliant of a young woman who told police Barker had violated her person on the Johnson School ground.

30h(1)

The woman told that Johnson came to her home with the story that her grandmother was ill and asked her to accompany him to her house. She stated that enroute to the home of the supposedly sick woman, Barker drew a knife on her and forced his attentions upon her. Wed. 8-20-47

Arrest Boy, 16, In Carolina Crime

Atlanta Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

30h(1)

AUGUSTA, Ga. —(ANP) —Fred Brannon, 16-year-old white youth of Mecklenburg, N. C., was arrested here early last week on charges of criminal assault on a 14-year-old girl two weeks ago in the woods near his home. Wed. 9-3-47

He is charged with attacking the girl after following her from a country store and dragging her into the woods. According to police officials, Brannon wavied extradition and is being returned to Mecklenburg to face charges.

2 Augusta Nurses Report Attack

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

AUGUSTA, Sept. 4—(AP)—Two Army nurses reported, Chief Sheriff's Deputy Walter E. Kent said, they were attacked near here Wednesday by two Negro men who assaulted one of them after the other had fled.

30h(1)

Kent said two Negroes arrested later and held in Richmond County jail for further questioning have been identified by the nurses as their assailants.

The attack occurred, Kent quoted the nurses as saying, when they stopped their automobile to ask a Negro man for directions to Augusta. The Negro and a companion, they said, offered to show the way and got into the car, whereupon one of the Negroes tried to kiss one of the nurses.

The woman jumped from the car and ran for help, Kent said the nurses told him, while the Negroes knocked the other nurse unconscicus and assaulted her. Officers summoned by the nurse who escaped found the other woman unconscious. Fri. 9-5-47

Kent said a physician at a local hospital examined the women and

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reported that one of them appeared to have been assaulted.

White Woman Told 'I Just Want You to Give the Word

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 7-26-47

30h(1)

Father of Newark Soldier Talks to His Son held in Georgia Jail

NEWARK, N.J.—The father of a Newark soldier held in Georgia on a white woman's complaint, told the AFRO on Tuesday that the conductor of the Central of Georgia Railroad train on which he was arrested June 6, proposed stopping the train so he could be hanged beside the tracks.

Pfc. Herbert L. Archer Jr., 24, of Newark, was taken off the train at Albany, Ga., and arrested because he allegedly went to sleep in an empty lower Pullman berth, reserved for the woman, when he had no ladder to get into his own, the upper berth.

Parents Tell Story

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Archer Sr., of 100 Chapel St., related to the AFRO on Tuesday how the father had been warned to leave Albany when he went to visit his son in the jail at Leesburg, Ga.

The soldier was taken off the train while en route from Chanute Field, Ill., to McDill Field, Tampa, Fla., under Army orders, after the woman had complained that she found him in the berth she had reserved.

Used Empty Berth

It was learned that Archer had left his upper berth around 9 p.m. to go to the men's room, returned to discover the ladder gone, and crawled into the empty lower berth.

While crossing Alabama, around 11 p.m., the woman boarded the train and upon claiming a lower berth, found the soldier asleep in it.

Woman Balks Lynching

A conductor, called by the woman, allegedly wanted Archer arrested in Alabama, but he was taken into custody in Albany instead. Sat. 7-26-47

His father said his son informed him that the conductor reportedly told the woman that if she "gave the word," he would have the train stopped so they could hang the soldier alongside the tracks. The woman intervened, he added.

The father said further:

"When my son arrived at Albany he was told to dress, and when he stepped out of his berth a gun was jabbed into his ribs and he was told that he was under arrest."

Letters to Parents

Mr. and Mrs. Archer asserted that before their son left Illinois he had informed them that he was coming home before going on overseas service.

Young Archer, who served in a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Virginia in pre-war days, had written enthusiastic letters regarding his success in passing a course in airplane mechanics along with five white soldiers.

Messages End Suddenly

However, the dead silence which followed his letters alarmed his parents.

The father, who has worked as an automobile mechanic for 25 years, told the AFRO that the silence was broken when he received a letter from his son on June 24 telling him that he needed money. Sat. 7-26-47

He also read that his son had smuggled a message out of the jail, and decided to go and see him, he stated.

The soldier was transferred from Albany to Leesburg when rumors grew in the former city that he had been taken off the train for an attempted assault on a white woman.

30h(2)

Warned to Leave Town

"I was allowed to see him," the elder Archer declared, "but the sheriff told me to cut it short and get into the next town for my own safety and that of my son."

"News travels mighty fast around here," Mr. Archer quoted the sheriff as saying.

Army "Helpless"

The father left immediately after the officer's warning, he stated, and was passed up by the first bus, but was able to board the second.

He stopped in Washington to talk with Army officials who told him they were powerless to act, and later contacted the office of the NNPA.

Former War Worker

Young Archer was born in Roanoke, Va., and had been employed at Raritan, N.J., Arsenal, during the war. He was drafted after V-J Day, and has been stationed at several Army bases throughout the country. Sat. 7-26-47

Mr. Archer said his son had worked with him for a while at the Charter Bus Company on N. 10th St., where he was employed for seven years. The family came to Newark in 1938.

Trained to Service Planes

It was only natural that the younger Archer should follow a mechanical career in the Army, according to his father. "He had passed a course in serviceing P-80 pursuit planes," he revealed.

Mr. Archer's wife, Rose, a small woman, showing the strain of a mother's anxiety, said, "I can not hardly eat or sleep, worrying about my son's safety."

NO EVIDENCE OF ATTACK, WHITE CHANGES RAPE TALE

Chicago Defender 30h(1)
Chicago, Ill., Sat. 5-3-47

ATLANTA—(ANP)—A young white woman changed her story about the rape by three Negro youths last week when a Grady hospital examination revealed no trace of attack and her story proved too weak for acceptance. Instead she was booked at police headquarters for further investigation. Sat. 5-3-47

The woman was found in a Negro section and told police that she was with three white soldiers when three Negro youths came up and ran the soldiers away, later raping her.

The examination at Grady showed no evidence of attack and close query disrupted the story entirely. Otherwise, three innocent Negroes might have been arrested on the spurious charge, and more than likely convicted.

Another Reported Assault Made On Hunter St. Area

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
30h(1)

According to City Police reports three alleged cases of criminal assault were reported late Sunday night and early Monday morning.

A Hunter street woman told officers that five youths forced her away from her husband near E. A. Ware school yard at the threat of a knife Sunday night and each of them criminally assaulted her.

The victim's husband reportedly told officers that when he attempted to defend his wife one of the attackers stabbed him under the left arm pit. Tues. 9-9-47

Examination at Grady hospital substantiated the woman's charge.

The other victim, a Rawson street woman, told officers that a man approached her at Capitol Ave and Rawson St., early Monday morning as she was going to work and at the threat of a knife forced her under a house where he criminally attacked her.

Woman Assaulted Here; Arrest Made

A 19 year ald Chappell Road woman told City officers that Willie Foster, 29, of 442 Broomhead Alley forced her to the vicinity of McDaniel and Glenn Sts at the threat of a knife Friday night and criminally attacked her three times.

Officirs said the victim claimed that Foster approached her at Peachtree Arcade, put a knife about her neck and forced her to ride a

street car to the scene of the assault.

Daily World

Examination at Grady hospital revealed that the victim had had physical contact.

Atlanta, Ga.

Foster was taken under arrest after the victim had identified him as her alleged attacker.

16-Year-Old Girl Reports Attack

A 16-year-old Collier St. girl was reported to have been criminally attacked at Chapel and Fair Sts. Tuesday night.

30h(1)

Marion Peek, 24, of 188 Bailey St. S. E. was arrested in connection with the alleged crime. Officers said the victim told them that Peek drew a gun on her while she was in company with her sister and forced her to a spot where the alleged assault took place.

Arriving at the scene a split second after the alleged assault, Officers reported that when they took Peek under arrest, they found in his possession a P-38, a German make gun.

30h(1) 1947

Georgia

7624

Atlanta Daily

Marietta Youth Denies Attack On White Woman

World - Atlanta, Ga.

Thurs. 7-24-47

Charles Mozley, 13, Bewildered Over His Imprisonment

30h(1) Ga.

By C. LAMAR WEAVER

Charles Mozley, 13-year-old Negro suspect, accused of having attempted to attack a 72-year-old white grandmother while she was picking blackberries with her 10 and 12 year old granddaughters in Marietta Tuesday, emphatically denied the charge in an interview Wednesday.

Moreover, the mild-mannered, 6th grade-pupil claims that all he knows about the alleged crime is what he read in newspapers and what Marietta officers told him when they spirited him away from an aroused mob of some two or three hundred potential lynchers, who, armed with rifles, pistols and clubs, had assembled to take law and order into their own hands.

Giving a detailed account of his actions during the morning the attack was reported to have been made, the country lad related that he had been collecting slop for his father's hogs. After making two stops collecting the slop, the youth claimed that he stopped by a place called the Big Apple and chatted with a schoolmate of his. Upon finishing his chat, the accused lad claimed that he went home and went to sleep.

TAKEN UNDER ARREST

Sometime later, he was awakened when Marietta City Officers West and McPherson came to his house, continued Mozley. He went out front to see what they wanted, he said. At that time the officers did not tell him why he was being arrested, he added.

Shortly afterwards the woman accuser was brought to his house where he was pointed out as the one who attacked her, he stated. It was then he was placed in the patrol car by the officers and brought to Atlanta, the lad pointed out.

The youth related that he was not told why he was under arrest until the officers' car was approaching Atlanta.

Asked about the blue bandanna handkerchief which was purported to have been worn by the alleged attacker, the boy replied that he knew nothing of a blue bandanna handkerchief. "I did however have a piece of blue scarf in my back pocket when officers arrested me," he said. Thurs. 7-24-47

The youth further stated that although he had seen the aged woman and her grandchildren about Marietta at times, he did not know their names and was positive that he had not seen them the day the attack was said to have taken place.

Tuesday evening the grandmother and the two girls were brought to Fulton Tower, where the youth is lodged, and reportedly identifed the youth as the attacker.

ABJECTED PLIGHT

Queried as to his background, Mozley stated that he lived with his blind father. His uncle, who also lives at the house, is employed at a restaurant in the town. His mother, sisters and brothers are all dead, the pitiable orphan related.

"I've never been in any trouble before," uttered the forlorn youth, "and I know absolutely nothing about this thing. I don't know why they accused me." 30h(1) Ga.

"I was born in Marietta in 1933. I'm 13-years-old and will be 14 on November 23."

The woman reportedly told officers that she was attacked by a Negro youth, wearing a bandanna handkerchief, jumped from a clump of bushes and knocked her down while she and her granddaughters were picking blackberries. The youth fled when the girls left the field screaming, the woman reportedly said.

Although the woman was said to have received scratches about the face and neck, she was not criminally assaulted, police revealed.

Meanwhile, reports say that the case against the youth, whose reported age ordinarily places him under juvenile jurisdiction, will probably be brought before Cobb County Grand Jury which is now in session.

Attempted Assault Charged To Youth

30h(1) Ga.

Daily World

Andrew Dorsey, Jr., 22, of 359 Pine Street, N. E., was arrested in the early hours, Sunday and charged with suspicion of attempted criminal assault after having been arrested in the viciniy of Washington Street near Memorial Drive.

A 28-year-old white woman accused Dorsey of being the man whom she alleges seized her in the pre-dawn darkness and dragged her down an alley in a vain attempt to commit criminal assault.

Early accounts reported the Sgt. Bevo Brooks and Patrolman I. M. Helon, cruising nearby, saw a Negro man running down Washingon Street and picked him up on suspicion, and that the woman screamed as they drove past, shouting that the man tried to kill her.

In a detailed account to a World reporter, however, a member of the detective bureau stated that Dorsey was caught while attempting to escape through an open field in the rear of Washington Street, and after he (Dorsey) had run into clothes lines and tripped over a fallen log. The official related how the accused man was trapped by the officers, who were coming up the alley, and a white man, whom it is said had come out of his house seeking the alleged culprit after the screaming woman had run into his home crying for refuge. Tues. 11-4-47

The woman is said to have declared she broke away from her assailant several times, and that each time he pursued her until she ran into the home of the unidentified white man, who's back door was evidently unlocked, thus saving her from possible death.

At Police Headquarters it is reported that an open knife and pictures of nude white women were included among the articles found on Dorsey.

The youth's mother, was stunned when officers apprised her of her son's plight. She had only a few moments earlier returned from Sunday services at Big Bethel AME

11-4-47

church. When interrogated by a World reporter Monday, she was still visibly affected by the arrest of her boy and the charge placed against him. 30h(1) Ga.

"Around home he was always a good boy and respected me at all times," she said. "I don't know what to think of this affair," she added.

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Attempts by a World reporter-photographer to interview the accused youth and obtain a picture of him were futile. His parents, it is understood, will obtain counsel for him. Tues. 11-4-47

7624

Coroner's Jury Charges Youth With Girl's Slaying

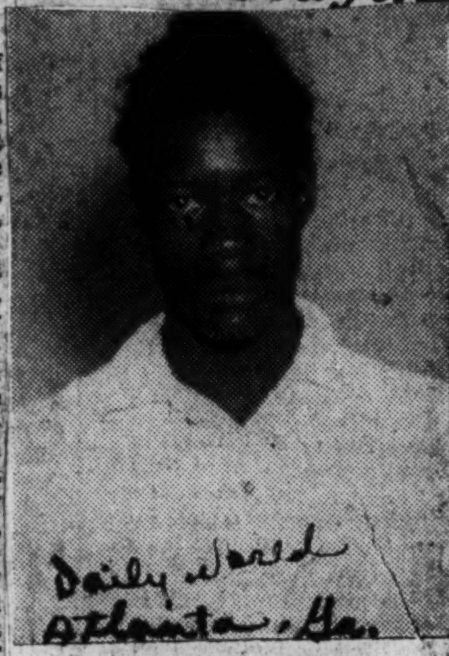
30h(1) Ga.

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

By J. RICHARDSON JONES

The inquest into the death of Celia Davenport, 24, whose body was found in a ditch 25 feet from an occupied residence on Plaster Rd., N. E., last Tuesday, brought a charge of murder from the Coroner's Jury, holding Robert Franklin, 18, for a hearing in criminal court. Mon.



Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

ROBERT FRANKLIN

The gangling youth admitted choking the girl Saturday night a week ago, adding that he "left her still breathing" in a ditch approximately thirty feet from an occupied residence. He stated that he "choked her with one hand," demanding to know, he said, when she would pay him an alleged debt of three dollars. Failing to get her to promise when she would pay, he, without reluctance, stated he choked her with both hands." Her body limp, he told officers that he placed her in the ditch where he thought she would "come to and walk home."

Several witnesses were paraded to the stand, some testifying that Franklin had been dissuaded from choking the girl earlier that Saturday evening by an uncle, Ed "Hat" Shaw, who identified the badly decomposed body. Sun. 11-2-47

The accused had made no effort to escape the scene of the crime, having mingled with associates in the vicinity the Sunday following the incident, and reporting to work at the Armour plant Monday and Tuesday. He was on the job when the body was found, and, when officers sent Ed Shaw for him, reported to them without hesitation, admitting that he had choked the girl and left her in the ditch, but showing no remorse or fear.

Sun. 11-2-47

Coroner Ed L. Almand informed the youth he did not have to make a statement if he chose not to, and that he was not obliged to answer any question the jurors may ask of him. His constitutional rights were very painstakingly explained, but Franklin insisted on making a statement. Instead of issuing a plea in defense of himself, he sought only to tell that he had purchased liquor ("pig-iron," he called it) in the home of one of the witnesses. He was drunk, he said, and did not remember having choked Celia Davenport. When faced with a signed statement he had given Fulton County officers before a Notary Public, however, he admitted he did remember, and answered jurors' questions freely.

When asked if he had assaulted the girl, he replied with a vehement "no," but pictures of the body at the spot it was found, with undergarments stripped off led officers to believe and testify, along with Dr Herman Jones, that an assault had apparently been made while the victim was unconscious.

The jury's verdict was death, apparently by strangulation (the upper portion of the body was so badly decomposed, it was imposible to state authentically that she had been choked to death), and recommendation made that Robert Franklin be held for murder.

A Fulton County Grand Jury indjcted Robert Franklin, 18, Friday for the October 28 strangle-murder of Miss Celia Davenport, of Armour Station.

Two More Assault Charges Lodged Against Youth

30h(1) Ga.

Atlanta Daily World Ga. 11-5-47

Picked-up early Sunday morning on a charge of attempted criminal assault on a white woman, 22-year-old Andrew Dorsey, Jr., of 359 Pine St., N. E., was further implicated Tuesday, according to City Detective W. M. Holland, when two alleged colored victims, pointed him out as having assaulted and attempted to assault them. Wed.

One of the alleged colored victims is a 13-year-old high school girl, the detective pointed out. She positively identified Dorsey in a police line-up as the man who forced her into sexual relationship last January 28. This alleged victim stated that Dorsey caught her near home that night, Det. Holand said, and forced her into the backyard of a white residence where he committed the sex crime.

11-5-47

The other colored victim, a 28-year-old mother of two children claimed that is was Dorsey who attempted to assault her in December of last year, Det. Holland reported. This victim, who also positively identified him in a line-up, related that he forced her to the Municipal market and when she made an outcry, he stabbed her in the throat, breaking-off the knife blade, the detective asserted. The broken blade was still lodged in her throat when she was admitted to Grady hospital, he added.

IDENTIFIED IN LINE-UP Wed.

Both identifications were made while the accused stood in a line-up of ten men, it was revealed.

Two other colored women and a white woman are slated to appear at Police headquarters this morning for the purpose of further identification.

Atlanta, Ga.

Reports Monday disclosed that ef-

7624

forts to contact the accused youth were made in vain. It was later revealed, however, that his father was permitted to see him. The father said that his son told him that he had been beaten by officers.

Dorsey was arrested by City officers following a complaint of a 28-year-old white woman that he accosted her early Sunday morning and dragged her down an alley at the threat of a knife, police said.

The alleged victim claimed that she broke away from the accused before any criminal assault could take place.

Suspect Held In Attack Attempt

30 k (1) Ga. Atlanta), Ga.

Daily World 12-26-47

A man listed as Adam Vincent, of a Victoria Street address, was arrested by city police Wednesday in connection with a charge that he had attempted to attack a white woman in an alley off Crew Street. Police said the victim identified Vincent.

Daily World

Woman Claims Four Men Assaulted Her

30 k (1)

A 27-year old woman of an Ella Pl., address told police that four men forced her at the threat of a knife to a field off Edgewood Ave., Friday morning and each of them criminally assaulted her.

An examination of the victim at Grady hospital disclosed that she had physical contact. Atlanta Ga.

Woman Bares Assault Try

Constitution

30 k (1)

Atlanta Ga.

ALBANY, Dec. 6—(UP)—A Negro man attempted to criminally assault a white woman in front of the post office here Saturday night, police reported.

A wide search was underway for the Negro who, police said they were told, climbed into the woman's automobile and threatened to kill her if she resisted. One suspect was being questioned.

Police said the woman opened the door of the car and managed to get out. The Negro fled.

Additional details were not immediately available. Sun. 12-7-47

Attempted Assault Claimed By Woman

Daily Worker

Atlanta, Ga.

A 25-year-old McDaniel Street woman reported to police that a man appearing about 20 years old attempted to criminally assault her at the threat of a knife Monday, and she managed to escape him by running out of her coat. 30 k (1)

The claimant said she was in the vicinity of Walker and Peters Street, on her way home when the stranger accosted her and tried to force her into an alley. He was wearing a black skull-cap and a brown jacket when the attempt was made, the woman stated.

Dual Assaults Claimed By Duo

Daily World

Atlanta Ga

According to police reports a woman and a young girl claimed that they were criminally attacked during the last few days. 30 k (1)

The 17-year-old girl, of a Woodward Avenue address, reported to police that while she was returning from a movie Wednesday night two men forced her into an automobile, carried her to Connally Street and Woodward Avenue and both of them criminally assaulted her. Wed 12-17-47

The alleged victim is reported to have named one of the assailants.

The other victim of a Beckwith street address, claimed that she was assaulted by two men Friday night as she was on her way to church. She told police that she got off a street car at Hunter and Mangum streets, and was met by a man who at the threat of a knife forced her into an alley, where he committed rape and sodomy.

Her assailant stopped another passer by and permitted him to assaulted her, the victim reportedly stated.

From descriptions given by the victim, police rounded up James Daniel, 17, address unknown and booked him as one of the suspects.

30h(1) 1947

Georgia

7625

Poor Lighting Provides Setting For Robbery-Rape, Other Crimes

30h(1) Ga. Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Poor lighting in Negro neighborhoods is providing the setting for major crime, a recent robbery-rape had pointed out Wednesday.

A belated report revealed that a popular Westside 16-year-old girl was taken from her boy friend as they walked from a party and at gun-point forced to accompany a sailor-clothed man to the country where robbery and rape were committed on her person. Sat. 1-25-47

The victim, a resident of Vine Street, N. W., reportedly was leaving a party on Parsons street, and was in the vicinity of the high school's hedgerow when the perpetrator sprang forth with weapon in hand. The gunman forced the young woman's boy friend to turn around and go the other way, with a warning not to look back. He then forced the young girl to get into his nearby parked car and drove out into the wooded section off Burbank Drive, N. W. The young woman was forced to yield to the fiendish desires of the man, who threatened to kill her several times after taking the money she carried in a purse and a ring belonging to her mother which she was wearing at the time. The victim was then forced to get out in the cold and rain.

After about a half hour of wandering around, the young woman found her way to the home of Mrs. Raymond Wyatt, of 76 Burbank Drive, N. W., and told her story amidst tears. She had been kept out over two and a half hours.

In the meantime, police had been notified by the boy friend and had searched the neighborhood of the high school without success. Examination revealed that the victim had been attacked several times. A description of the perpetrator was given police, who Wednesday had not solved the crime.

Residents of other sections of the the city, long neglected of lighting have pointed out to city officials the need of adequate protection. Others have been reminded to make the protest to proper city officials at once since lives and virtues are at stake. Sat. 1-23-47

Young Married Woman Is Victim

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. 30h(1)

A 17-year-old married woman was allegedly criminally assaulted by two men late Friday night, on a vacant lot on Morris Brown Drive, according to city police reporter. This was the second offense of this type of the year. Ga. Sun.

Officers Lloyd Rowell and C. N Wingo reported that they answered a call to 109 Stafford Street, S W., and talked with the victim.

The young lady told the officers that she and her husband were on McDaniel Street, about a block from their home, when two men walked up and asked where they lived. The men armed with pistols, ordered her husband to turn around, and when he complied with this request, jerked her in a green 1941 Ford convertible coup.

The officers qouted the victim as saying that the man carried her to a dark spot on Morris Brown drive where each one raped her twice at the point of a pistol. 1-26-47

The men then took $3.50 out of her purse and drove off in the car, after which the young lady went to the Stafford street address and called the police

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Woman Attacked, Husband Injured In Lumber City

30h(1) Ga. The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

Constitution State News Service.

McRAE, March 21 — Telfair County police officers Friday broadcast a State-wide general lookout for a Negro charged with breaking into the home of a Lumber City couple while masked, striking the husband unconscious with an ax and criminally attacking the wife. Sat. 3-22-47

The Negro, according to Telfair County Sheriff John B. Walker, appeared suddenly at the home late Wednesday night, broke down the door with an ax and told the man to hand him his money. After the white man gave the intruder $1.50, the Sheriff continued, the Negro knocked him to the floor with a blow on the head with the ax and ordered the man's wife to tie up her husband with hay wire.

The unknown assailant warned the wife and children he would kill them if they gave an alarm, assaulted her and left, according to Sheriff Walker. The husband is still in critical condition, doctors stated Friday. Sheriff Walker reported a similar offense was committed by a Negro in the same community several weeks ago.

Fla. Woman Retracts Rape Story Charge After Police Query

Ga. Daily World 30h(1) Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 4-16-47

It is reported that an 18-year-old white girl accused three Negro boys of raping her Monday night in the vicinity of Mangum Street, but later denied her story after medical examination at Grady showed no evidence of such.

The young girl, who is reported to be from Gulf Port, Fla., was said to have been discovered by a Negro woman in the vicinity and told the woman that she was with some white soldiers when three Negro boys came by, ran the soldiers away and raped her.

Police carried her to Grady where an examination showed no evidence of rape and she was carried to Police headquarters for further questioning. It was there she is reported to have retracted her story of rape.

She was booked for further investigation.

Nab Attacker Of 2 Women In Screven

Constitution 30h(1) Ga.

SYLVANIA, May 6—(AP)—Sheriff W. L. Crumley reported Tuesday an escaped Negro convict abducted and attacked two white women, one in the presence of her three-year-old son, and the Negro had been captured.

The Sheriff identified the Negro as James Brown, about 25, an escapee from a Bulloch County road gang where he was serving time for forgery. Sheriff Crumley said the Negro had been taken to the State Prison at Reidsville for safekeeping. Atlanta Ga

Brown was captured, the Sheriff said, by two youths, Blair Daley, 18, and James Downing, both of Newington ,as the Negro flagged them for a ride.

The Sheriff said the convict entered Screven County from Bulloch Tuesday morning in a stolen truck and armed with a pistol.

Screven is located near the South Caroline State Line, about half way between Augusta and Savannah. Wed. 5-7-47

The Negro's second victim and her son, Sheriff Crumley said, were ordered into the trunk of their car and abandoned there by the Negro after the attack, the Sheriff said.

Sheriff Crumley gave this account of the Negro's actions:

Tuesday morning he drove into the yard of a house near Woodcliff and as the 26-year-old farm wife stepped out onto the front porch to see who was calling, Brown leaped from the truck and ordered the white woman into the front of the vehicle.

With the woman cruched on the right-hand side of the truck's cab, Brown drove about three miles down the road, pulled into a lane and attacked the woman.

Afterwards, and with the woman still in the cab, but not visible to passersby, Brown drove through Sylvania and was some 1 miles away when he passed a car occupied by the second white woman and her son.

Brown turned around and gave chase to the second car, finally forcing it off the road to a halt. He then abandoned the first woman, huddled on the floor, and got into the car with the second woman and her small son.

A second woman, a resident of Newington, was carried by the Negro into another lane where she was attacked. The car was stalled, however, and Brown abandoned it after forcing the woman and her son into the trunk and locking it.

After this the Negro stole a second car belonging to the family of young Daley. After he had proceeded but a short distance he ran out of gas. Wed. 5-7-47

Young Daley and his friend, meanwhile, had set out in pursuit. They found the Negro by the gasless car trying to flag a ride. They halted on the pretext of giving him a lift and when the Negro entered, one rammed a pistol in his stomach while the other disarmed him. Shortly afterwards, two highway patrolmen happened upon the scene, and took hte Negro into custody. He was sped for safekeeping to the State prison.

The second woman and her son were discovered a short time after being abandoned by Brown.

Assault Charges In Screven Name Escaped Convict

Constitution 30h(1) Ga. Atlanta, Ga.

SYLVANIA, May 19—(AP)—An escaped Negro convict was indicted Monday on charges of abduction and criminal assault of two Screven County white women. Judge J. L. Renfroe warned that the trial must be conducted in an "undisturbed, lawful and peaceful manner."

James Brown, 25, was accused of abducting the women in stolen vehicles and assaulting them in rural lanes shortly after his escape from the Bulloch County prison camp May 6. Sheriff W. L. Crumley reported at the time that one of the women was assaulted in the presence of her three-year-old son and that the mother and child were then locked in the trunk of a car.

Brown has been held for safekeeping at the Reidsville State prison since his capture by two Screven County youths shortly after the assaults. 30h(2)

Judge Renfroe appointed Earl Hill as attorney to represent Brown, and Hill said the defendant would not plead guilty.

The judge said he would set a date for the trial later, but the case would be heard in Sylvania, about halfway between Augusta and Savannah, unless there is a request for change of venue. Ga.

Sheriff Crumley said on May 6 that Brown, armed with a pistol, drove a stolen truck into the yard of a 26-year-old farm wife near Woodcliff and forced her into the cab with him. The sheriff said the escaped convict drove her to a secluded lane and assaulted her, and then drove through Sylvania with the woman huddled on the floor out of sight.

Crumley said the Negro then forced another woman to halt her car, got in the car with her and attacked her before her three-year-old son. The sheriff said Brown left the woman and child locked in the trunk of their car and had proceeded several miles in another stolen vehicle before he was captured by youthful owners of the car. Tues. 5-20-47

Youth Doomed On Plaint of Two Women

Daily Worker 30h(1) Ga. New York, N.Y.

SYLVANIA, May 22 — James Brown, 21-year-old Negro who in four hours as a fugitive from Bulloch County prison was said by officers to have committed criminal assaults on two white women, two kidnapings, two robberies and stolen three automobiles, was convicted here Thursday of the charges of criminal assault He was sentenced to die June 17 in the electric chair.

Brown, who escaped May 6, was tried in Screven County Courthouse before Judge R. L. Renfroe while from 40 to 50 State patrolmen, one-fifth of the entire State force, formed a protective cordon around the building to prevent mob violence.

The courthouse is located in the center of Sylvania. Streets run on four sides. Two highway patrol cars were stationed at each corner. Traffic was blocked entirely on two of the streets, but cars were permitted to pass on the other streets, which are main highways.

UNDER HEAVY GUARD

The Negro was escorted to the trial scene from Reidsville State Prison by five State patrol cars. Following the trial he was whisked back under heavy guard.

Lt. Ed Norton, the arresting officer, said that Brown, a trusty who was serving 10 years on a forgery conviction, stole a truck soon after his escape.

Norton said that the Negro found a pistol in the glove compartment of the truck. He then drove from Bulloch into Screven (Sylvania) County. He went into a house and forced a white woman into the truck. He ordered he to lie on the floorboards while he drove for 15 miles. Then he assaulted her. Thurs.

Further down the road, according to Norton, he again assaulted her. 5-22-47

SECOND ASSAULT CHARGE

Between Sylvania and Newington, Norton said, Brown ran another car off the road. In this car was a white woman and her small son. Brown left the first woman in the truck, then took the wheel of the second woman's car. After driving about five miles, he assaulted her, acocrding to the testimony.

He then forced the mother and her son to get in the trunk compartment of the car, locked it, and proceeded to steal another vehicle, according to the testimony. When the third stolen car ran out of gas, Brown was captured by two youths who said they saw him steal the car.

The trial, witnessed by 300 persons, was brief. The jury deliberated the verdict after only three minutes. Judge Renfroe passed sentence and then ordered all spectators to remain in their seats.

NNPA Learns Soldier Held In Ga. Jail

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Wed. 7-9-47

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA) —The NNPA News Service last Monday asked the War Department what steps have been taken to have Pfc. Herbert L. Archer, of Newark, New Jersey, turned over to Military authorities by Goergia law enforcement officers who are holding him on alleged trumped up charges.

Archer was taken off a train at Albany, Georgia, on the night of June 6, while en route from Chanute Field, Illinois, to McDill Field, Tampa, Florida, it was learned. At the time he was traveling on Government transportation.

As the matter was related to the NNPA News Service, Archer had been at Chanute Field where he had just completed some courses in electrical mechanics. En route to McDill Field, under Army orders, he had an upper berth.

About 9 o'clock on the night of June 6, he called the porter, who brought a ladder and Archer climbed own from his upper berth and went to the men's room. Wed.

LADDER REMOVED 7-9-47

When he returned a few minutes later, the ladder had been removed. He made some efforts to get the porter, but when he failed to do so he climbed into the lower berth under his upper. The lower berth at the time was unoccupied.

About 11 o'clock that night, while the train was going through Alabama, a white woman, who had just boarded the train, was very much perturbed to find a colored soldier in the space which had been sold to her. She got the conductor.

In the meanwhile, Archer had climbed into his upper berth. When the conductor came up, he stuck his head out between the curtains of his berth. The conductor wanted him taken off the train in Alabama, but Archer was not arrested until the train reached Albany, Ga.

INTENSE FEELING

When the report became circulated that a colored soldier, accused of attempted rape, had been taken off a train, feeling against Archer is reported to have become intense. He was removed to the jail at Leesburg, Georgia, for safekeeping.

Charged with assault and attempted rape, Archer is being held for the November term of court. His bail has been set for his release.

His father learned of his son's plight when Archer smuggled a letter out of the jail on June 24.

His father just returned from visiting his son. He said the boy told him he had not been drinking and had committed no overt act. The father said the sheriff told him that the best thing he could do was to get out of town. Wed. 7-9-47

McRae Youth Held On Attack Charge

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

McRAE, Ga.— (SNS)—A 19-year old Rollie Eady was being held in the McRae jail on a charge of criminally assaulting a 12-year old white girl, near Milan.

The arrest of the youth was announced by Sheriff John B. Walker who stated that the girl was attacked while working in a garden near her home, while Eady escaped just before her father reached the scene after hearing the girl scream for help. 30K(1) 8-19-47

Bolstered by Bloodhounds, the State Patrol immediately began a search and the Negro was apprehended Friday afternoon about a mile from where the attack occured according to Sheriff Walker.

Woman Claims Tuesday Attack

30K(1)

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

A 25-year-old woman of a Vine Street address reported to police that a man forced her into his car Tuesday night and carried her to some woods off Huff road, and raped her. Thurs. 6-12-47

The victim said that the man pulled up to her house around 11 p.m. in an old model Plymouth and asked her if she knew a man named Dorsey who lived in the neighborhood. When she arrived at the automobile, said the victim, the man put a knife about her throat and threatened to kill her if she made an outcry. He then forced her into the car and carried her to a wooded section off Huff road, stated the victim, and there he raped her.

City officers who investigated the call observed that it was out of their jurisdiction as it happened outside of the city limits. They turned the investgation over to county authorities with a vivid description of the criminal and his automobile.

Shortly after the case was turned over to the county officers, they picked up Bishop Hall, 47 of Rockdale, Ga. When Hall and his Plymouth were confronted with the victim, she immediately identified both, saying that Hall was the rapiest and the Plymouth was the car used in spirting her away.

Thurs. 6-12-47

Assaults Alleged In Indictments

Pub. Atlanta Ga.

The Atlanta Constitution

By DUPONT WRIGHT

James Ward Sims, powerfully built teen-age Negro accused of terrorizing women during a one-man crime wave, Tuesday was indicted by the Fulton County Grand Jury on 12 counts. Three of them alleged assaults on women, including a 73-year-old nurse.

The three counts were included in six bills of indictment. The other nine counts alleged burglary.

Indictment of Sims climaxed a heavy week of anti-crime activity in the Fulton County Courthouse. Sol. Gen. Paul Webb reported during the past 10 days 57 convictions and pleas of guilty and three acquittals. Among the cases tried were 10 homicides, 15 burglaries, eight robberies, and seven auto thefts.

Police said intensive questioning of Sims over the weekend drew confessions of all but one of the burglaries.

Nearly a dozen policemen and detectives had been searching for a knife-wielding Negro who had terrorized the South Side during July. A prowl car picked up Sims as a suspect shortly after radio flashed the story of the attack on the 73-year-old woman. He was taken to the scene where police found that imprints left there coincided with those of Sims' tennis shoes.

Police said Sims was unusual in that he attacked older rather than young women. One indictment charged him with assault with intent to murder, alleging that he slashed a woman with a knife. On July 21, he is alleged to have attempted criminal assault on another woman.

According to police records, Sims' criminal career began in 1943 when he was arraigned in Juvenile Court on an unspecified charge. He was sentenced to the Colored Industrial Farm, from which he escaped later.

The capture of Sims was an example of perfect teamwork in the Atlanta Police Department, Chief Herbert Jenkins said.

Detectives investigating the criminal assault on the retired Piedmont Hospital nurse, as well as other attempted assaults on elderly women on Milledge Avenue and Atlanta Avenue, had found clear impressions of tennis shoe tracks throughout the houses.

Photographs were made of the tracks and Chief Jenkins ordered the pictures shown to the different patrol watches. This was 10 days ago.

That same night, Patrolman W. D. Eblen was walking his morning watch beat on Pryor Street, near Mitchell, when he noted a young Negro approaching. Eblen noticed the Negro was wearing tennis shoes.

Further investigation revealed that the soles of the Negro's shoes were of a pattern similar to those found in the terrorized homes. Eblen made the arrest.

At police headquarters, Capt. Ben W. Seabrook, of the City Identification Bureau, compared the shoes with the copies of the print his Bureau had prepared, and reported they matched. He also said a fingerprint was identical with a latent print found on a window ledge through which the prowler had forced entrance to a Southside home.

Questioned by Seabrook and Det. Lt. M. M. Coppenger and Det. Lt. L. T. Bullard, the youth was said to have admitted burglarizing the elderly nurse's home and striking her with his fist several times. However, he denied the assault charge. Wed. 8-6-47

Coppenger and Bullard said they had been able to establish that the clothes worn by Sims the night of the assault—clothing which he allegedly admitted taking in a burglary the previous night—were bloodstained.

They immediately asked for tests by Dr. Herman Jones, Fulton County toxicologist, to further strengthen their case. 30K(1)

In subsequent signed statements, Coppenger and Bullard said, Sims admitted attempting to burglarize a home on Atlanta Avenue and, when surprised by the woman resident, seized her and stabbed her.

During the investigation, detectives recovered from Sims' home at Scott's Crossing a quantity of jewelry, clothing and other items taken in the terror raids which resulted in the indictments for burglary. Wed. 8-6-47

Assault Trial Plea Granted

Thurs. 7-31-47

Atlanta Constitution

MARIETTA, July 30—In a series of legal maneuvers, Atty. Dan Duke won a delay in the trial of a 13-year-old Negro, Charles Moley, charged with an attempted assault upon a 72-year-old grandmother. 30K(1)

After refusing Duke's demand for a new trial and plea for a change in venue, Judge J. H. Hawkins granted a supersedas, making it possible for the youth's attorney to file an appeal for a venue change. Atlanta, Ga.

The action delays the case until the November term of Superior Court. Thurs. 7-31-47

30h(1) 1947 Germany (Court-Martial)

7627

NAACP LAWYERS AID SENTENCED SOLDIER

(30h(1)) Germany martial

March 28, 1947

Press Service of the NAACP New York, N.Y.

A plea for clemency for Frederick Conrad, Negro soldier now serving a life term for the alleged rape of a German woman, was today submitted to the Secretary of War by the NAACP legal staff. Fri. 3-28-47

The NAACP had previously pointed out to the Secretary of War that the record of the Conrad military trial, held in Germany, was "doctored" and important testimony added subsequent to the transcription of the minutes. 30h(1) Germany Press Service of the NAACP

The brief for clemency described the prosecution's two main witnesses: the first, the "injured" German woman, a widow whose husband probably died in the service of the Fatherland, who probably viewed the Negro-American troops quartered in her home with the vicious Nazi belief in Aryan superiority; and the second, her son, a 14-year-old admitted member of the "Hitler Jugend." New York, N.Y.

The NAACP lawyers declared, "It would appear that the petitioner, an American citizen-soldier, was subjected to trial and sentenced to spend the rest of his life in disgraceful confinement as the result of an American court-martial board inadvertently making itself an accomplice in accomplishing the vengeful and vindictive end of an enemy citizen." Fri. 3-28-47

The soldier's guilt has not been established beyond the reasonable doubt required by law, the lawyers maintained, and the evidence adduced at the trial was insufficient as a matter of law. The prosecution's witnesses' testimony "was replete with contradictions and falsification," and the prosecution failed to call an important alleged eyewitness, a 70-year-old man, although they called the 14-year-old member of the "Hitler Jugend."

The brief showed how the court and defense counsel had allowed the prosecution to ask leading questions and concluded by requesting an immediate review of the case and a complete remission of the sentence of confinement levied against Conrad.

Conrad, whose home is in Pittsburgh, Pa., was sentenced to life imprisonment by a general court-martial at Gutersloh, Germany, on July 14, 1945, for alleged rape of Margaretta Mershiewe, a German citizen. He was a private in the 184th Engineer Combat Battalion. Fri. 3-28-47

30h(1) 1947

Indiana

7628

Man Admits Slaying Of Indianapolis Woman

30h(1) Ind.

Birmingham, Ala.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 18—(AP)—Capt. Robert O'Neal of the state police said today Robert A. Watts, 25-year-old Negro city truck driver, had confessed the shotgun slaying of Mrs. Mary Lois Burney in her Northside home last Wednesday.

O'Neal said Watts admitted that Mrs. Burney was slain in a struggle over the gun after he attempted to rape her. Tue. 11-18-47

Watts led police to a weed patch where he had thrown the gun.

Mrs. Burney's husband, Herschell Burney, a food broker, found his wife's body on a bed when he returned home. The Burney home showed evidence of a struggle. Mrs. Burney had fled to her bedroom for her husband's shotgun and had fired one shot, which struck a door. Part of her face was blown away by a second shot. 30h(1) Ind.

Watts was arrested the day of the slaying in connection with an attempted rape of another woman in her home less than a half mile from the Burney home. O'Neal said Watts is being questioned in the unsolved slayings of several other women.

Racial Clashes Intensify Feelings In Indianapolis

30h(1) Ind.

Atlanta, Ga.

Daily World

INDIANAPOLIS —(ANP)— Clashes between white and colored hoodlums here growing out of unsolved murders of white women, alleged rapes and resentment against racial discrimination have inflamed racial feelings to a dangerous state. Hotheads of both races are filling the air with threats, but the saner citizens of the community are attempting to quiet these elements. Sat. 11-22-47

Robert Watts, city truck driver here, has admitted an attempted assault on a white woman but denies murdering two other white women. He has a long criminal record including a conviction on a "peeping Tom" charge. At the time of his employment by the city, he was on bail resulting from a charge of rape placed against him by a Negro woman. 30h(1) Ind.

The determined efforts of aroused Negro citizens intent upon ending jim crow in the public schools has brought into highlight the discriminations practiced in this city

Mayor-elect Al Feeney has indorsed the interracial Community Relations council which seeks to promote racial and religious understanding. He has indicated that af his inauguration on January 1 he will take effective measures against all hoodlum groups.

Killing Suspect Offers Plea To Avoid Chair

30h(1) Ind.

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

Indianapolis, Nov. 18 (AP)—Judson Stark, County prosecutor, said today Robert A. Watts, 25-year-old Negro City truck driver, had offered to plead guilty to slaying Mrs. Mary Lois Burney if he can escape death in the electric chair. Wed. 11-19-47

Capt. Robert O'Neal of State police made public earlier a signed statement by Watts that he had shot the 39-year-old housewife last Wednesday in her suburban home during a struggle for the Burney shotgun when she resisted his attempt to rape her.

Stark, who said a grand jury would meet tomorrow to consider the case, had not decided what punishment he would ask.

The prosecutor said Watts had contended he had shot Mrs. Burney, wife of a food broker, "accidentally."

He told officers he had attempted to assault four other women in north-side homes that day before entering the Burney home, tSark said, and that he had entered more than a dozen other residences on the two previous days.

The truck driver was free at the time on bond on a rape charge.

Man Accused Of Rape Taken To Eddyville

Courier-Journal Tues 4-29-47 Louisville, Ky.

The Courier-Journal Paducah Bureau

Paducah, Ky., April 28.—Manuel Lee Hopson, 17, Paducah Negro, was transferred from McCracken County jail to Eddyville Penitentiary today after he waived examing trial on a charge of rape. He is accused of attacking the 60-year-old wife of a Paducah barber. 30h(1)

Hopson, a former inmate of Western State Hospital, was arrested by City Patrolmen Burton Weir and George Barclay. The offense occured at 1:20 a.m. Sunday at Seventh and Jackson, according to Detective Capt. Tilghman Tade.

Hopson was committed to Western State Hospital in June, 1946, according to McCracken Circuit Court records. Authorities said he was released on probation.

He was accused of grand larceny in an indictment returned by the grand jury here last week and was scheduled for trial today in circuit court.

Hopson was held to the grand jury under $5,000 bond in connection with the rape charge. Sheriff Barkley Graham said he was taken to Eddyville for "safety purposes."

Rape Suspect Held to Jury

Journal

Owensboro, Ky., May 20 (AP)—William Henry Logan, 16-year-old Negro charged with rape of a young white woman here last Friday night, was held without bond for grand jury action by Judge J. Everett Long in Juvenile Court today. 30h(1) Wed. 5-20-47

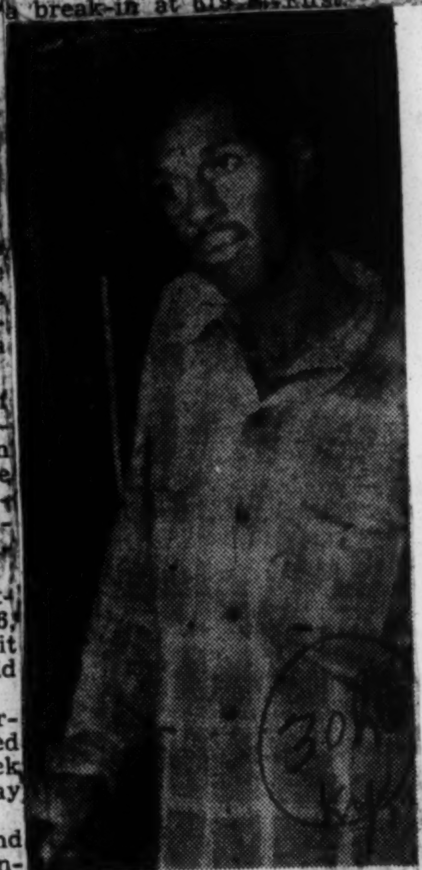
Man Accused In Rape Attempt And Burglary Shot

Louisville, Ky. Sun. 7-27-47 Courier-Journal

Charges of burglary and attempted rape against Robert Curry, 20, Negro, 115 S. Ninth, yesterday were continued to August 6 in Police Court. Curry was shot in the left hand at 3:30 a.m. yesterday by Patrolman Louis Koehler as he fled from the Graymor Restaurant, 104 W. Gray. 30h(1) Ky.

Koehler and Patrolman R. L. Wiseman caught Curry in the cafe while they were investigating a break-in and attempted rape in the neighborhood. The patrolmen said he was trying to open a pinball machine when they first saw him. Sun. 7-27-47

A knife found on Curry was identified as one taken earlier in a break-in at 619 S. First.



Associated Press Photo.

Columbia Record Columbia, S.C.

Charged with rape, murder, armed robbery, and wounding with intent to kill, Luther Williams, Somerset Negro, is held in Fayette County Jail at Lexington. He is accused of attacking Mrs. Ada Hughes, 51, Somerset, who died Monday night. Wed 9-17-47

Negro Admits Robbery, Ravish—Woman Dies

Birmingham News Birmingham, Ala.

SOMERSET, Ky., Sept. 16—(AP)—Police Chief Herbert Norfleet announced that Luther Williams, 27-year-old Somerset Negro, is being held in jail at Lexington on charges of murder, rape, armed robbery and wounding with intent to kill, following the death of Mrs. Ada Hughes, 51, in a hospital here last night. 9-16-47 30h(1)

Norfleet said Mrs. Hughes was found Sunday night in the backyard of her home, brutlly beaten and unconscious. He said Williams, whom he arrested later that night, had signed a statement admitting that he beat and raped Mrs. Hughes, a white woman employed as a housekeeper. He said he took $8 from her pocketbook. 9-16-47

The Pulaski County Grand Jury yesterday returned indictments on all counts except murder and Mrs. Hughes died later. Norfleet said Williams would be tried Oct. 13. He probably would be brought ~~[illegible]~~ before the Grand Jury for investigation of the murder charge.

News Birmingham, Ala.

Williams was removed from jail here late yesterday and taken to Lexington for safekeeping after a crowd of more than 200 persons gathered the chief said. 30h(1) Ky.

Norfleet said Williams had been employed by Mrs. Hughes several times during the Summer to mow the lawn and do odd jobs. Tues. 9-16-47

30h(1) 1947 Louisiana

7630

(30h(1) La.

Detectives Hunt 'Attacker'

'Policeman' Forces Self Upon Young N. O. Matron

Pittsburgh Courier, Pa.

Sat. 10-4-47

NEW ORLEANS—Detectives of the Orleans Parish Police Department opened a hot search here Sunday morning for a middle-aged man driving a maroon 1946 four-door sedan, Louisiana license number 113-997, who has been accused by a young married woman of forcing her to accompany him and submit to his whims, Friday night, in the dark unfrequented area known as the "Back of Town" section of the city.

She related in an exclusive Sunday morning interview that she had just left Charity Hospital, visiting her husband, and had reached Iberville Street at North Claiborne when the man in the maroon Pontiac sedan called her to his parked automobile, flashed a police badge, which she recalled to be number "853," and ordered her several times to get into the car.

The downtown woman, apparently in her middle or late twenties, said that, after she saw a compartment in the car open and a huge pistol in it, she became afraid to offer any further resistance and finally got into the car. She said the man ordered her to sit in the front with him, then drove toward Lake Ponchartrain, eventually parking the car in a dark section near a bottling plant in the vicinity of Tulane and Broad Avenues.

10-4-47

She added that, fearing the man might try to do her violence even if she did obey his instructions, she pretended and won his confidence to the extent that he voluntarily decided to take her home after the incident.

The young matron said she had first been stopped by the man, who, Sunday morning, told her his name was "Morris," at about 7:20 o'clock Friday evening. He ordered her to submit to his attentions some time between 7:30 and 8 o'clock, and that it was not 9 o'clock when she was returned to her neighborhood on Ursurlines Street.

It was here that the man asked her if she would be interested in some work for his family, asked if she was married or single. She told him she was single, and he then arranged to come to see her about the work Sunday morning. She said she gave him the address of 1605 Dumaine Street, upstairs, and it was later established that a man in a maroon 1946 sedan did come by that address twice Sunday morning to the woman whom he was told, should be by later.

7631

Girls, 4, 5, Victims In City's Worst Crimes; Man, 50, Is Arrested

The Informer Sat. 6-28-47

30h(1) La Houston, Texas

NEW ORLEANS.—Two of the most revolting crimes in local history occurred in widely seperated sections of this city during the past week when two little girls, one four years of age, the other five, were criminally assaulted by elderly men. Both children are confined to charity hospital suffering from injuries sustained at the hands of the sex fiends; one 50-year-old man is held by local police on a charge of aggravated rape and police are searching for another.

The first case occurred in the Garden District section at Washington avenue near Danneel about 9:50 p. m. Saturday when Riley Kelly, 50, of 1936 Washington avenue, allegedly took a 4-year old girl into his room and completed the sex act with her.

Sat. 6-28-47

Kelly was arrested about 10:05 p. m. Saturday when the child's mother pointed him out to Second Precinct police. Dr. Richard Buck, assistant Orleans parish coroner, examined the child and verified the story of her mistreatment. Kelly was charged with aggravated rape.

Only five days later, the second case was reported in the neighborhood just behind Charity hospital.

A five year old girl who resided with her foster parents was criminally attacked about 8 a. m. Wednesday, according to police. Her parents had gone to work and had left the child in care of an aunt who left the house for a short time police reported.

When the aunt returned, she found the child bleeding profusely and the child told of being awakened by an old, tall, dark man who attacked her. Despite the child's screams, the attacker completed the dastardly act and fled, police said.

Sat. 6-28-47

Charity hospital physicians said the child had been attacked. The child told police she could identify the attacker and said he was the old man who gathered newspapers in the neighborhood and carried a sack.

Both children were confined to Charity hospital late last week.

Two Rape Cases Reported In Garden District

Houston, Texas 30h(1)

The Informer

NEW ORLEANS — Second precinct police reported two new rape cases over the week-end that took place in the rdeaded area known as the 'Garden District.'

The first took place early last Saturday morning, when a 22 year old young lady was returning to her home about 1:30 in the morning. When she reached Washington avenue and Loyola street she was aoproached by two men. Police say that she became frightened and ran, with the men finally over taking her after a five block chase ,on the grounds of a Catholic church on Loyola and Saratoga streets. One man with a razor forced her down and slit her underclothing. When the second one attempted to assault her she reported that she told him. "You wouldn't do this to your cousin, would you?" The two men made their escape and she notified police. A description of them was broadcast over police wires.

Sat. 7-26-47

The second case was reported by Second precinct police as happening after J. R. Hall, 25, 2005 Josephine street, told them that a man brandishing a revolver held up him and his common-law wife about 3:30 a. m. Monday, as they reached the doorsteps of their address. Three other men joined the first, and Hall was robbed of $18. Then the bandit with the gun ordered Hall's mate to start walking. The other three men is reported by Hall to have said to the first not to molest the woman. He walked the 24 year old woman over several blocks and on reaching a feed mill shed on Clark and Euphrasine streets he forced her to strip at gun point, and then assaulted her. On completing his deed police say that he gave the woman some money to catch a cab home. She later said that he forced her to jump fences and run alleys.

30h(1) 1947

Maryland

7637

Policewoman Struck by Man Resisting Arrest

Afro American

30h(1) Md.

BALTIMORE

Charged with attempting to criminally assault an 11-year-old girl and striking a policewoman, Samuel Harper, 18, of 214 N. Carey St., was held without bail for grand jury action following a hearing Wednesday in Southwestern police court. Baltimore, Md.

Policewoman Carolyn Robinson, who made the arrest, testified at the hearing that Harper resisted arrest and had to be subdued by force. 10-25-47 Sat.

30h(1) 1947 New Jersey

7633

Expectant Mother Victim Of Attacker

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

PAULSBORO, N. J., May 24—(UP)—Mrs. Betty Askins, 20-year-old expectant mother, was attacked by a burly Negro gunman in the automobile that was "home" to her and her husband after their eviction. 30h(1)

The thug surprised the sleeping couple, Farnum Askins, 24, former serviceman, and his wife, by shaking the locked car and pointing a pistol at them. 5-25-47 Sun.

He made Askins open the car doors, tied up the ex-GI with his own belt and then attacked Mrs. Askins on the front seat after tearing off her clothes.

Askins and his wife were evicted from their home at Mt. Royal Friday and were sleeping in their car parked on Berkley Road, outside Paulsboro, when the assailant, a six-foot tall Negro, appeared.

From an examination of the car, it appeared that the thug tried to pry open a window ventilator. Failing in this, he stood on the running board and shook the car until the Askins were aroused.

Mrs. Askins, who was in the front seat, and her husband, in the back, faced the muzzle of a pistol and the Negro ordered them to open the car doors.

When they complied, the gunman took off Askins' trouser belt, and wrapped it tightly around his wrists. After he assaulted Mrs. Askins he let the air out of the automobile's tires and fled, without robbing the couple.

A few minutes later, Askins freed himself, telephoned police and took his wife to the office of their physician, Dr. Don Weems, at Wenonah. Sun. 5-[illegible]-47

Negro Is Identified As Woman's Attacker

Birm., Ala. News

30h(1)

PAULSBORO, N. J., June 9—(AP)—Nathaniel C. Lestwich, 21-year-old Negro, has been lodged in the County Jail at Woodbury to await Grand Jury action on a charge of rape after a 20-year-old expectant mother identified him as the person who attacked her in an automobile as her husband lay helplessly bound in the back seat.

The woman, Mrs. Betty Askins, of Paulsboro, told Police Recorder John Gellenthin at a hearing in West Deptford Township yesterday Lestwich was her attacker.

She said she and her husband, Farnum, a 24-year-old discharged veteran, were asleep in their car on the outskirts of Paulsboro May 24 after they had to leave a crowded relative's home and were unable to find other quarters. Mon. 6-9-47

New Jersey State Police Detectives Walter H. Zickoff and John E. Hunt accused Lestwich of poking a revolver through a ventilator in the parked car, ordering the couple to open the doors, forcing Mrs. Askins to tie her husband with his trouser belt and then attacking her before fleeing.

30h(1) 1947

New Mexico

7634

Youth Attempts Slaying Woman, 67, In Attack Try

30h(1)

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., March 4 —(AP)—Slender, six-foot Julio Benavidez, 17, was charged with murder yesterday after Dist. Atty. M. Ralph Brown said the youth signed statements admitting killing Mrs. Carolina Sanchez Stone, 67, in an attempt to rape her.

3-4-47

Mrs. Stone's nude body was discovered near her home Feb. 22.

Birmingham [illegible]

7635

Driver Of Stolen Taxi Attacks Young Actress

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21—(AP)—An attractive young actress in a Broadway show was raped and then robbed at knife point by the Negro driver of a stolen taxicab, police said today, and then was thrown from the car into a snowbank as the man drove away. 30K(1)

Police identified the woman as Miss Biruta Ramoska, a Russian singer and dancer in the musical, "Street Scene." They said the attack occurred last night on one of New York City's busy residential streets. Fri. 2-21-47

Police said Miss Ramoska gave this account of the attack:

She emerged from her Broadway apartment about 7 p.m., during the height of a snow storm, and hailed a passing cab. The Negro driver stopped the car at 62nd Street and Central Park, West, en route downtown, and said he had to wipe off the windshield.

After wiping the windshield he entered the rear of the cab, threatened the woman with a knife, and then raped her. He took $5 from her purse and threw her out of the machine.

Miss Ramosko gave police the cab's number and it was found to be reported stolen.

Minister Uses Golf Club To Hold Negro Who Molested Wife

B'ham.-Ala. News
Mon. 6-9-47

NEW YORK, June 9—(AP)—A Presbyterian minister, subduing his quarry with a golf club, turned over to police a young Negro he said had invaded his home and attempted to rape his wife. 30K(1)

The minister, 69-year-old Rev. Alvin E. Magary, said the Negro tried to fire his pistol at Magary and his wife, Marion, 40, before he jumped in panic from a second-story window of the Magary's Brooklyn home early yesterday.

The intruder, who gave his name as George Smith, 20, of Brooklyn, broke his left knee in the jump. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital prison ward and charged with attempted rape, burglary, attempted felonious assault and violation of the Sullivan anti-weapon law.

Police said the minister, hearing his wife screaming, dashed upstairs to find the prowler trying to force Mrs. Magary to the floor.

Magary said he battled with the intruder and the Negro jumped.

The minister ran downstairs, grabbed a golf club on the way, and halted the Negro. Mon. 6-9-47

"I told him if he moved or tried to get away I would beat him upon the head," Magary said.

Porter Is Arrested For Attack On Radio Writer

30K(1)
Fri. 6-13-47

NEW YORK, June 13—(AP)—Arrested through a police check of a laundry mark on a cleaning rag, Robert Smith, 44, Negro porter and handyman, was held on charges of assault and robbery today in the beating Wednesday of Mrs. Madge Tucker Miller, radio script writer, in her apartment.

Mrs. Miller was knocked unconscious by a man who posed as a window cleaner to enter her apartment. B'ham. Ala. News

Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander said that Smith, arrested yesterday, admitted the attack.

Mrs. Miller's husband, William Burke Miller, is program director for the television unit of the National Broadcasting Company. In 1926 he won the Pulitzer prize in journalism for interviewing Floyd Collins as he lay trapped in a Kentucky cave. Fri. 6-13-47

Two Rape and Robbery Crimes Startle New York

The Fla. Tattler
Jacksonville, Fla.
30h(1) Sat. 6-28-47

New York City—(CSN)—Two rape and robbery crimes of headline imporance occurred here last week which both startled and disgusted New Yorkers for the crimes were committed by Negroes with their victims white women.

First one occurred at 1:30 Sunday morning in the Brooklyn home of a 69-year-old Presbyterian minister, Rev. Alvin E. Magary and his wife, Marian. Six foot two George Smith, by occupation a pants presser, broke into the Magery home by climbing in the bedroom window of Mrs. Magary, grabbed the forty-year-old woman declaring "Don't make a fuss. I have a gun and I'll kill you." Sat. 6-28-47

Her screams attracted her husband, on the floor below, and he dashed into the room picked up a shoe weighted with a shoe tree and hurled it at Smith. "With a few solid punches," as he described his blows later, Magary cornered the pants presser who tried to escape by jumping out of the window. But Magary pursued him and captured him, beating him with a golf club. 30K(1) N.Y.

The minister came out of it unscatched; Smith was booked for attempted rape. Incidentally, he had tried to use his gun several times but it had failed to click. Police later found the gun a German-make loaded but with American cartridges which didn't fit. Sat. 6-28-47

The second rape attempt occurring less than four days after the Magary-Smith incident, involved a posing window-washer and a blonde radio actress, Mrs. Madge Tucker Miller. About 10:45 a.m., Mrs. Miller found the window-washer going through her bedroom. He smashed her on the head with a cast iron ornamental dog, then calmly walked out with his rags and pail and disappeared. She barely had strength to call her husband, announcing "Something terrible has happened. I am dying." Later in Roosevelt Hospital, she tried to describe her attacker. "He was horrible. He smashed his heel in my face. He kicked me in the throat. He's five feet nine, light complexion and in his early twenties," she sated.

BURGLAR SLASHES WOMAN WITH RAZOR

30K(1) N.Y. N.Y.

Brandishing a razor, a burglar entered the ground-floor apartment of Mrs. Fay Maydeck, 35-year-old widow, and her three daughters at 529 Saratoga Avenue, Brooklyn, at 4:30 A. M. yesterday. He slashed the woman on her face after attempting to rape her and escaped with $7 and a key to the front entrance of the apartment. Thur. 7-17-47

Mrs. Maydeck, who shares one room with her youngest daughter, Roberta, 6, was awakened by the command: "Be quiet, or I'll cut your throat." New York Times

Her other daughters, Sylvia, 15, and Eleaine, 13, were in another room. The two sisters were awakened and began shouting for help. The thief fled through the rear window, which he had entered by removing a screen.

At 8 A. M., Eleaine, who is on summer vacation from Junior High School 252, told the police that when she opened the front door of the apartment she saw the same man standing near the door. She said he was clutching the front-door key and that he ran when she screamed. She described him as a Negro, about 19 years old, 5 feet 9 inches in height, wearing a yellow polo-type shirt and brown trousers.

Mrs. Maydeck, whose husband, Irving, died five years ago, was treated at Unity Hospital and was able to go to her job as a saleswoman in a store.

30h(1) 1947

North Carolina

7636

2 More Cry Rape, Nineteen Jailed

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

30h(1) Sat. 6-7-47

RICH SQUARE, N. C.—Following an alleged attempt to attack a 17-year-old bride, white, here last week, eleven colored men were arrested and three placed in an undisclosed jail.

The investigation, authorities said, was hampered due to the lack of complete descriptions of the alleged assailants.

Sheriff C. D. Roebuck reported Monday that another Negro had allegedly attempted to attack a 15-year-old daughter of a tobacco warehouse owner in a street at Williamston, Saturday.

The sheriff said eight Negroes who had been arrested were released after questioning.

WHAT'S THIS? DIXIE WON'T TRY NEGRO FOR RAPE!

Los Angeles, Calif. [illegible] 30h(1)

JACKSON, N. C.—Will Cherry, 24, won't have to stand trial for rape of a white woman because he won't be around to be tried.

Cherry, although accused of rape, was convicted of first degree burglary here last week and sentenced to die Aug. 29 in the gas chamber. Sat. 7-12-47

Immediately after Cherry's conviction, true bills on two counts of first degree burgulary were returned against James Boone, 21, accused of being Cherry's accessory. Sat. 7-12-47

Lynch Town Foiled by Escape, Hunts New Negro Victim

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y. Tues. 6-3-47

30h(1)

Special to the Daily Worker

JACKSON, N. C., June 2.—The lynch spirit was rampant in the nearby town of Rich Square for the second time in 10 days as more than a hundred armed white men fanned out last night over the countryside seeking a Negro. The cry that a Negro had attempted to rape an unnamed newly-wed 17-year-old girl set a mob rampaging again over the same Northampton County area where Buddy Bush, 24-year-old Negro, made his miraculous escape from a lynch gang on May 23.

Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler, local prosecutor, announced two Negroes, one charged with attempted rape and the other with aiding an unlawful flight, are in custody in an undisclosed jail. There is a report that a third Negro is also being held.

Tyler said he personally took part in the cross-country chase. He reported "no evidence of mob spirit," but Sheriff J. C. Stephenson said "feeling is running high." Tyler quoted a white girl as saying a Negro rapped at her door at Lasker, about 11 p.m. and when she opened the door he grabbed her. She said she screamed and fainted and the Negro fled.

An hysterical white woman, Mrs. Margaret Bryant, caused the arrest of Buddy Bush in Rich Square 10 days ago. Mrs. Bryant later stated she'd never seen Bush.

Bush was lodged in the county jail. At 2 a.m. an armed, masked mob took him from his cell. They hustled him into the back seat of an awaiting automobile. But before the car could pull out, headed for the execution grounds, Bush pushed open the door, leaped out and fled in the darkness, a pistol shot whining over his head.

Seven prominent white Rich Square citizens named as members of the Bush lynch mob are free on $2,500 bond each. They are scheduled for trial Aug. 4, on kidnaping charges, but the majority of the white population is hailing the seven as heroes. No one here believes the local court or jury will punish a single one. Tues. 6-3-47

Lives of newspaper men who published names of the mobsters were threatened. Rich Square Mayor Charles E. Myers heads a local group supporting the defense of the accused mobsters. Bush is still held without bail in the Raleigh Central Prison on an attempt to rape charge.

Bush Engages White Lawyer

Afro-American 30h(1)

Baltimore, Md.

RICH SQUARE, N.C.—Godwin (Buddy) Bush, 22, whose ability to run and dodge saved him from death at the hands of a mob in nearby Jackson on May 23, has engaged a white lawyer, W. D. Strickland, to defend him when his trial for an alleged attempted criminal attack opens next week.

Bush startled liberal and progressive leaders in the State when he announced from his cell in Raleigh, before leaving for his father's funeral, June 10, that he would refuse the services of Herman Taylor, who was appointed by the NAACP to defend him.

Jackson Leaders Blamed

It was reported that the prisoner's decision to pin his hopes for exoneration on the charge against him on the ability of a white lawyer, was influenced by colored leaders in Jackson. Sat. 6-21-47

Another source said Bush decided to make the change because Taylor advised him against attending his father's funeral.

Bush was supplied with an armed State Highway Patrol escort comprising Col. H. J. Hatcher, commander of the outfit, and Patrolman R. E. Sprinkle, who were instructed by Governor Cherry to see that no harm befell the prisoner.

30h(1) N.C.

Bush was released from custody under a $2,500 bond, after attending the funeral of his father, Alfred Bush, 66, who died while working in a cotton field near here. Sat. 6-21-47

Bond Raised by All

Col. Hatcher said he had talked with numerous citizens here, and opined that there is "no feeling at all against Bush."

He announced that the bond for the prisoner's release was posted by white and colored citizens here, but Bush's lawyer refused to reveal their names.

Lawyer Not Worried

He said he did not know his client's plans but that Bush would stay with relatives near here until his trial. Sat. 6-21-47

Mr. Strickland asserted that he was not worried about Bush's safety because "nobody's going to bother him."

History Changed To Order

Journal + Guide

IN 1831 NAT TURNER led sixty-odd other slaves in what went into the history books as "Nat Turner's Insurrection," Southampton County, Virginia.

30h(1) N.C.

While TURNER and his small band of insurrectionists were engaged in what they conceived to be a fight for their liberation from slavery sixty white people were killed. Norfolk, Va.

After a few days of local warfare in *Southampton* County, *Virginia*, TURNER, his followers, and many other slaves were chased into the swamps by United States soldiers and on the first day over a hundred Negroes were killed. TURNER and his leaders were rounded up and hanged. The insurrection news got beyond the bounds of *Southampton* County, *Virginia*.

To our surprise, the NAT TURNER insurrection has been transferred by present day historians to *Northampton* County, *North Carolina*, approximately 75 miles from its historical setting. An Associated Press report of the first day of the trial of two colored men for alleged attempted rape goes on to say: Sat. 6-28-47

> Tomorrow is the first in a series of scheduled trials of Negroes in this area that 116 years ago saw the Negro insurrection led by Nat Turner in which 55 white persons were slain.

That is history changed to order.

The Negroes' Race Problem

30h(1) News + Courier

"Governor Cherry (North Carolina) reiterated his intention of apprehending the Jackson mob but deplored a recent series of attacks by negro men on white women in North Carolina," saying "I just don't understand their psychology." They have no "psychology" worth mentioning. To the negroes of North Carolina and of South Carolina The News and Courier says that, notwithstanding the national discussion of the Greenville case, it should be of far greater and more immediate concern to their race that attacks on women cease than that lynchings cease. That is their present racial problem, and they would better not be diverted from efforts to stop the attacks by the anti-lynching agitation. The News and Courier again denounces all lynching as murder and nothing short of it. As murder it should be punished. Negroes can best stop lynching by making negroes behave properly. Charleston, S.C.

Wed. 5-28-47

Negro Is Sought By Armed Group

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

30h(1) Mon. 6-2-47

Second Alleged Assault Case Is Reported

RICH SQUARE, N. C., June 1—(AP)—Another attempted criminal assault of a white girl by a Negro man was reported today near Rich Square—scene of a similar incident ten days ago which led to the arrest of Godwin (Buddy) Bush, 21-year-old Negro, who later escaped from a masked mob.

Upwards of a hundred men, many of them armed, fanned out over the countryside after the girl, a recent high school graduate and a bride of two weeks, reported the alleged attack.

Two Negroes found within two miles of her home were taken into custody and promptly rushed to an undisclosed jail for safekeeping.

Sheriff J. C. Stephenson first said the two were arrested on suspicion of having helped the alleged assailant in escaping but Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler later announced one of them would be charged with attempted assault and the other with aiding in unlawful flight.

The sheriff reported public feeling as "running high." The solicitor, however, said he personally took part in the chase and saw no evidence of "mob spirit." Mon. 6-2-47

"They were just determined to apprehend them," he said.

Tyler quoted the girl as saying a Negro came to her home at Lasker about 11 p.m., knocked on the door, and when she opened it, grabbed her and pulled her part way out. He fled when she screamed and fainted, the solicitor said.

Bush, now held in State Prison in Raleigh for safekeeping, was arrested after an alleged attack on a white stenographer.

JUVENILE DEPRAVITY:

30h(1)

11 Sex Crazed Youths Attack Matron, 17

Afro American, Balt., Md.

CLINTON, N.C.—Eleven youths, all charged with criminal assault on the 17-year-old wife of a murder suspect, were committed to Sampson County jail here last Friday following their indictment Thursday by a Superior Court grand jury.

They were arrested early Sunday morning, Feb. 2, by Sheriff P. B. Lockerman and his assistants and were held without bond after a preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace Carlisle Jackson.

The woman in the case is Mrs. Helen DeVane whose husband, William Rufus DeVane, is being held in the county jail awaiting trial on a charge of murder.

Those held are Fred Owens, Fennell Culbreth, James R. Owens, Robert Hargrove, Paul McLaurin, James Sinclair, Lloyd Cobb Jr., Booker T. Moore, Thedie Melvin, Fredane Parker and Thomas Godwin, all of this vicinity.

Victim's Testimony

Only three witnesses were called by the State at the preliminary hearing.

Mrs. DeVane testified that, after visiting her husband, Saturday afternoon, Feb. 1, she was stopped by the youths in a car while walking toward the bus station on the same street where the jail is located. Sat. 2-15-47

When she refused their invitation to get in the car she was forced into it, and one of the youths held his hat over her mouth so she could not make an outcry.

She said they choked her and took her to a point near Roseboro, one of the men attacking her in the car.

Forced Into Woods

After reaching Kirby's Place and later visiting Sargeant Brown's place, Mrs. DeVane testified further that one of the men forced her into the woods where she was then attacked by "at least nine men."

She related that "the men just kept coming into the woods and having something to do with me." She was finally rescued by Til Owens, an employee at Sargeant Brown's place.

Mr. Owens testified that he saw a car parked near his place of employment and that the driver kept flashing a spotlight. He later heard somebody walking in the woods and asked Thedie Melvin what was going on.

Rescued From Attackers

Mr. Owens said Melvin told him there was a woman in the woods. He started to investigate using a flashlight.

When a few feet of the center of the attraction, Mr. Owens said he heard a woman crying and pleading, "Please get off me and let me go."

Mrs. DeVane, according to Mr. Owens, told him that the men made her go into the woods and that eight or ten of them "had something to do with me."

All the men ran except two and Mrs. DeVane tried to get up but failed in the first attempt. Mr. Owens said he helped her up and took her to the place where he works.

Sheriff Tells Role

He testified that he found Mrs. DeVane 35 or 40 yards from the highway, and that, his first thought was that the men had liquor in the woods and not a woman. Sat. 2-15-47

Sheriff Lockerman testified that as to how he was advised of the attack and called to the scene, and read statements allegedly made and signed by the 11 youths after their arrest.

Each implicated others in their statements, some stating that there was much argument as to "who would be next," the sheriff said.

James Sinclair admitted that he took Mrs. DeVane into the woods, in his signed statement, the sheriff said.

Suicide Try Fails Suspect

Atlanta Ga. Daily World 30h(1)

Fri. 8-1-47

MOUNT AIRY, N. C.— (ANP) — Facing charges of statutory rape against an 11-year-old girl, Andrew B. Burton, 26, made three attemuts to commit suicide in his jail cell here last week. Also involved is James T. Smith. Fri. 8-1-47

Burton, married, and the father of two childre, first triec to slash his wrists before officers took the blade away from him. The finger of one of the officers was cut in the scuffle. Officers then took Burton's clothes from him, thinking they had removed everything from his cell with which he might hearm himself.

A few minutes later, however, they heard a crash and ran back to find him unconscious. He had beaten himself into insensibility with a toilet seat. When he recovred, he began ramming his head against the cell. He was then handcuffed in such a position that he could do no further harm to himself.

Fri. 8-1-47

The two men were arrested by Sheriff Sam Patterson and charged with having carnal knowledge of Peggy Lee Snow of the White Plains section near Mount Airy The charge was amended as Peggy Lee was under 12 years of age. The pair will be tried in the September term of Surry County Superior court.

Sheriff Switches Youth To Another Jail For Safety

Chicago Defender 30h(1)

Chicago Ill.

WADESBORO, N. C. — Latest threat of mob violence was disclosed here last Sunday when Sheriff Ben M. Rivers revealed that he had rushed Fred Streater, 17, to an undisclosed jail as a precaution against such possible violence. Sat. 8-30-47

The youth is being held on charges of burglary and attempted criminal assault. Rivers said the alleged victim is an 83-year-old white woman. The sheriff said that the woman was alone in her farm home in Gulledge Township last Monday night when Streater reportedly entered her room and attacked her but was frightened away when she fought and screamed.

The elderly woman was examined by Dr. L. Wallin, county health officer, who said he found severe bruises on her thighs.

Sheriff Rivers said the woman was unable to reach neighbors for help until late last Tuesday morning.

He said that while he found resentment high in the southern Anson county community, there was no sign of "disorder" in the neighborhood.

Charge Man, 60, With Attack On 7-Year-Old Girl

Chicago, Ill. Defender

Sat. 6-28-47

30h(1)

GREENVILLE, N.C.—A 60-year-old man was arrested here last week and held in jail without benefit of bail or bond for an alleged attack on a 7-year-old child last Saturday night.

The alleged rapist, Willie Kelly, is accused of having molested the daughter of a family living in the same neighborhood. Sat. 6-28-47

The child's grandmother sent her to Mrs. Charity Elizabeth Best's home on an errand at 9 o'clock that night. Mrs. Best had gone to do some shopping at a nearby grocery store. Upon returning home she heard the child crying for help. Kelly was said to have been caught in the attempted rape.

30h(1). 1947

Pennsylvania

7637

Physician Denies That He Treated Matron Indecently

Afro-American, Baltimore, Md.

30h(1) Pa. Sat. 10-25-47

Attractive Young Woman Says Attempt Was Made After She Had Disrobed

PHILADELPHIA

A 41-year-old Tioga physician was placed under $1000 bail Tuesday when an attractive young mother accused him of indecent assault while performing a physical examination of her last Saturday morning.

The physician, Dr. Ulysses S Cook, who maintains offices at 1627 W. Butler St., emphatically denied the whole story, however, when queried by the AFRO.

According to Mrs. Alpha Hawkins of 3734 N. 15th St., she went to Dr. Cook's office Saturday for an examination, after a slight illness. 10-25-47

After asking her to disrobe, the doctor began the examination; but she soon became suspicious of his intentions, she said.

After he had taken further liberties, Mrs. Hawkins said, she waited for a chance to escape, and when Dr. Cook turned away, she grabbed for parts of her clothing and ran out of the office.

Mrs. Hawkins, the mother of two small children, one three months old, came to Philadelphia with her husband, Daniel, two months ago from Jacksonville, Fla.

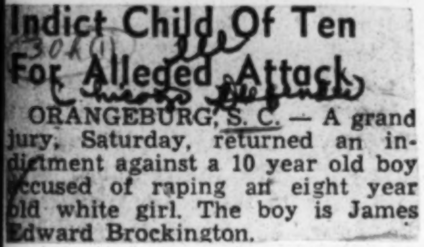
Doctor Denies All Guilt

The private hearing was held Tuesday at Magistrate Joseph H Rainey's courtroom, without Dr Cook's attorney being present, and was therefore continued until Friday.

30h(1) 1947

South Carolina

7638



Indict Child Of Ten For Alleged Attack

30h(1) Ill

(Chicago Defender)

ORANGEBURG, S. C. — A grand jury, Saturday, returned an indictment against a 10 year old boy accused of raping an eight year old white girl. The boy is James Edward Brockington.

30h(1) 1947 4

7639

Youth Held In Rape Put In Safekeeping

Courier Journal

Darlington, S. C., May 25 (AP)—A Negro arrested on a charge of raping a 67-year-old white woman here today was whisked away to the State Penitentiary tonight for "safekeeping against possible mob action," Sheriff Wiley Granthan of Darlington said. 30h(1) Mon. 5-26-47

He was listed as Willie Pooler, 20, who Grantham said confessed at the penitentiary to raping the woman early this afternoon on the outskirts of Darlington.

12-Year-Old Boy Joins Mob With Shotgun

30h(1)

Both Races Question Woman's Attack Story

Journal + Guide Norfolk, Va.

Sat. 6-21-47

COLUMBIA, S.C.—(A N P)—A 12-year-old white boy was a member of the 300-man citizen posse last week that engaged in a Negro manhunt, following a white woman's claim that the Negro man had slashed her during a fight in her Englewood home in a second rape attempt. The lad was armed with a shotgun nearly as tall as he.

The woman's charge that she was attacked by a Negro man several days ago produced considerable racial tension here. Prominent citizens voluntarily guarded her home and planned to apprehend the suspect if he returned. The intruder allegedly returned unobserved while she was in her kitchen. Her husband and daughter had just left for work and she was alone with her grandchild.

The woman was injured in a fight with her assailant and taken to a Columbia hospital here where several stitches were required to treat a cut on her left arm. But the persistence of the man to attack the same woman twice is the factor that makes both whites and Negroes question the woman's story. On both occasions, the assailant was able to disappear mysteriously.

LOW CHARACTER

All Negroes arrested and questioned as suspects have convinced members of the 500-man police-citizen posse of their innocence. A check on the woman indicates she is of low character, the NAACP revealed. She has three known living husbands, the NAACP discovered. Concensus of opinion among both races is that one of her ex-husbands may have blackened his face to attack her. Sat. 6-21-47

Two of her leading protectors are now under bond pending disposition of assault and battery charges, the NAACP disclosed. Meanwhile the 12-year-old boy shoulders his shotgun to enjoy the manhunt, which provided a bit of excitement when a Negro man was cornered in a nearby cemetery.

Young Girls Awake To Find Negro In Bed

Columbia Record
Columbia, S.C.

30h(1) S.C.

SALTERS, Sept. 10—(UP)—Two 'een aged girls told authorities today of awakening during the night to find a Negro man lying in bed between them. Wed. 9-10-47

The girls, 12 and 15, said that they screamed and the marauder fled.

Sheriff Pearless Lambert said that the only clue was a three-bladed pocket knife which the Negro had used to slash the pajamas off one of the girls.

Negro Stabs Carolina Woman; Hunt Is On

B'ham. Ala. News

30h(1)

COLUMBIA, S. C. June 3—(AP)—Sheriff T. Alex Heise said a "mass man hunt" was under way in this area for a Negro man who this morning slashed and stabbed a white woman.

The woman told the sheriff her assailant was the same man who attempted to rape her last Wednesday. Tues. 6-3-47

"Details are lacking on just what happened today," the Richland (Columbia) County sheriff said, "but the woman was seriously slashed about 9 a.m.

"She is in a serious condition, but was able to tell us it was the same man who cut through the screen door of her house and tried to rape her last Wednesday.

"Residents of the (suburban Edgewood) area have turned out in a mass to hunt the man, and I have all my deputies searching for him.

"Most of the men in the neighborhood have kept loaded rifles and pistols at hand since last Wednesday."

The woman reported breaking away from the man last week and racing to neighbors' houses, screaming for help. By the time a group of people had gathered and surrounded the house, the man had fled.

South Carolina

PALMETTO STATE

- By -
Modjeska M. Simkins

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

30h(1) S.C.

Somebody Is Going To Be Very Much Embarrassed When The Truth Comes Out In South Carolina

Sat. 6-21-47

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Columbia dailies of the week of June 2, sacrificed reams of precious newsprint to vivid, infuriating, breath by breath accounts of alleged attacks upon a surburban white woman, supposedly by a Negro intruder. Such glaring headlines as: "Edgewood Housewife Attacked by Negro;" "Negro Slashes Woman in Second Crime." "Reward Hiked After Second Assault Tay in Edgewood" ("for arrest and conviction of Negro man who allegedly attempted to assault and did slash an Edgewood housewife"), petered out June 7 to "Unfounded Rumors Still Circulate in Edgewood Case."

Close observers calculate that the case broke for officers on June 5 when the dusty, smelly, lynch-hungry posse was demobilized. Since then an iron curtain equal to that which is supposed to surround the Soviet Union has enveloped the case in exasperating silence. Slap-happy local radio and press reporters who jumped at the chance to go off "half-cocked" in a "nigger-did-it" tale are going to be mighty surprised and embarrassed when the cat is let out of the sack, officially.

Columbia Negroes, embarrassed, disgusted, terrorized, but skeptical of the report from the beginning, express varying significant reactions in the case. Said one! "When the truth is known, it will do us more good than eighty years of prayer" another, "Women ought to be put in the penitentiary for starting lies that could cause hard feeling, destruction and death in our community," and, a third, following the reports that fire and flaming tar balls had been thrown into Negro residences: (This statement emphasizes the seriousness of race persecution). "I haven't done anything and I don't know anything about this thing.

"I don't know what I'd do if they bother me on the streets, but I'm all right when I get home. I keep two guns always ready, not to bother any of the white people, but to keep them from bothering me and my family.

"I am a veteran. In the war they taught me how to kill people that had done nothing to me. So I know how to take care of any who do me wrong now." He wasn't a vicious animal, ready and anxious to spring. He was just a free-born American who wanted to be left alone to let live—AND TO LIVE! In this conviction, he is not alone.

* * * *

In discussing the Edgewood outcry with a city police official the other day, I said, "Has it ever occurred to you that, whenever, and for whatever reason a Negro enters a white home, he immediately is labelled a rapist and is arrested and convicted either for criminal, or attempted criminal assault; but when a white man does the same thing, he is said to be drunk, lost, sick, suffering from amnesia, or maybe he intended to rob? Sat. 6-21-47

The officer agreed that his experience is that the first thing a Negro does when he enters a home and runs into a white woman is to take "leg bail." "Most of these rape calls are checked down by us and found to be nothing," he said. On the other hand, a local radio newsman rent his clothes because the "busybodies up NAWTH" who had so much to say about the Greenville verdict had said not a word about how the "nigras" are assaulting our Carolina women, even here in Columbia.

The "foreigners up NAWTH" know the score on these cries. Some of the southern homebodies do, too, for I overheard a white woman say, "I think a lot of these women have ways of raping easy." I thank her so much. I hope she sees this.

We must admit that the glaring headlines and the incendiary and often deliberate misstatements made in these so-called rape cases can serve only one purpose, and that is to make thousands of white women hysterical, and fearful that every Negro is a fried and turned, sex-mad fiend. The young scatter-brains and the old race-hating biddies swallow these reports without greasing them, and soon the rape flag is run up again.

Careless and race-baiting editors should be brought to task constantly. Race-baiting by sly and malicious radio commentators should be met by immediate protest, to their sponsors and later by boycotts if necessary and possible. In order to meet reaction effectively, we must work on the dame schedule, TWENTY - FOUR HOURS A DAY! Sat. 6-21-47

Although he is not quite dry behind the ears, young Congressman William J. Bryan Dorn of the third S. C. District is getting some choice headlines. Coming from a section over which a sensible crow always carries his lunch, he first rode to the front pages and double headlines on a Communist smear line. Now he wants the Democratic party to purge Wallace.

And he disapproves of Attorney General Tom Clark's policy "of sending the FBI into the South to investigate every local issue that causes disturbance while, on the other hand he lets electing frauds go by uninvestigated." My guess is that Wallace and Clark are about Dorn as Brother Ox was about the gnat.

12-YEAR OLD BOY GETS HIS SHOTGUN TO HUNT NEGRO

St. Louis Argus
St. Louis, Mo.

30h(1)

COLUMBIA, S. C., (ANP)—A 12-year-old white boy was a member of the 300-man citizen posse last week that engaged in a Negro manhunt, following a white woman's claim that the Negro man had slashed her during a fight in her Englewood home in a second rape attempt. The lad was armed with a shotgun nearly as tall as he. Fri. 6-20-47

The woman's charge that she was attacked by a Negro man several days ago produced considerable racial tension here.

Columbia, S. C., Record
July 10, 1947

For [illegible]o Policemen

30h(1) S.C.

Three teen-age Negro youths are under heavy guard in Macomb county jail in Michigan facing charges of rape, felonious assault and robbery growing out of their attack on a 15-year-old white girl and her three companions, another girl and two boys.

Two Negro detectives, loaned by the Hamtranck, Mich., police department and Deputy Steve Morris made the arrests and secured confessions from the three Negroes.

Here is another use for Negro policemen in Columbia and everywhere that Negroes constitute a fairly large share of the population. For it is axiomatic that a Negro can get more information out of Negroes than any white man.

Negro Who Made Attempt On Girl Said Recovering

The Columbia Record
Columbia, S.C.

30h(1) Mon. 8-25-47

GREENVILLE, Aug. 25—George W. Clifton, Negro who suffered a fractured skull Saturday night struck with a whiskey bottle by the brother of a white girl he allegedly accosted, was in fair condition today at General hospital.

Police Chief J. H. Jennings said the white man slugged the Negro after he allegedly grabed the 14-year-old girl who was playing in front of her home on West Washington street here. The girl, and a nine-year-old companion and the man told similar stories in statements made to police.

Negro Held For Attack Attempt

Columbia Record

30h(1) S.C.

KINGSTREE, Sept. 23—(UP)—A 20-year-old Negro was being held in an undisclosed jail today charged with attempting to attack a 15-year-old white girl near here Sunday.

Sheriff Pearless Lambert said he had removed Bennie Collins, whom the girl had identified as her attacker to a jail in another county for safe keeping. 9-23-47

The young girl told police the Negro had grabbed at her as she entered her home Sunday night and chased her from room to room until she escaped and ran screaming through a corn field for help. Tues

Convict Tried On Criminal Assault Charge

Columbia Record

Columbia, S.C.

Wed. 9-10-47

Frank Williams, 38-year-old Negro convict, went on trial today in Richland county general sessions (criminal) court on a charge of alleged criminal assault upon a 68-year-old white housewife at her home near Columbia, March 17 1947.

30 A (1) S.C.

It appeared the trial might consume the court's time today, and possibly extend into tomorrow, Solicitor T. Pou Taylor said.

Judge M. M. Mann of St. Matthews, presiding in court, ordered another assault allegation, previously scheduled for trial today, to be held until December term as a principal state's witness was absent from the state. No more new cases will be taken up this term, as Judge Mann said he planned to rest next week in preparation for a three-week civil term. There will be no criminal court next week as planned heretofore.

Identifies Suspect

The aged woman testified on the stand today for the prosecution and alleged that the suspect, whom she identified in court as Williams, came in a window of her home and approached her in the kitchen. She said she was in the home alone.

The woman testified she walked with him to the bedroom, where the attack allegedly occurred.

"Please don't kill me, I won't tell," she testified she told the man.

Afterwards, she testified, the man left and she did not know where he went.

Wed. 9-10-47

She was a Columbia hospital patient after the alleged attack.

Deputies To Testify

Two deputy sheriffs, Thomas R. Scott and Wade H. Rawlinson, who investigated the case, were expected to be called to the stand.

Deputy Rawlinson came to court, although still suffering from an illness that has kept him in bed this week.

Williams, the defendant, was being represented in court by two court-appointed attorneys, Kenneth R. Kreps and Sidney D. Duncan.

Williams, who was born on Christmas day, 1908, in Savannah, Ga., had been a Richland resident since 1944.

He was sent up to the chaingang for housebreaking and grand larceny and his time on that sentence does not expire until January 11, 1948.

Wed. 9-10-47

He has denied the charge entirely. He was a chaingang camp prisoner at the time the alleged attack occurred.

Several lesser cases were disposed of in court today prior to the calling of the Williams case.

Judge Mann openly commended the solicitor, T. Pou Taylor, for the dispatch he had shown in clearing the docket for the term.

Wed. 9-10-47

He said he commended the solicitor's zeal in seeking to try another case today but said that with court nearing in December, he did not feel the state would lose anything by holding the case over until that time.

(30 A (1) S.C.)

Negro Charged In Attempted Assault

Columbia Record

8-26-47 Tues., S.C.

GREENVILLE, Aug. 26—(AP)—A Negro man listed as George Washington Clifton today had been charged with assault and battery with intent to ravish in a warrant signed Sgt. R. F. Cox of city police and issued by Magistrate Bates Aiden.

30 A (1) S.C.

The warrant alleged that the defendant had grabbed and hugged a 14-year-old white girl with intent to rape her. The alleged offense took place Saturday night on West Washington street.

The Negro was still at General hospital today for treatment of a fractured skull received when the girl's brother hit him with a whiskey bottle. He was reported in good condition today.

7640

Doubt Rumors Of Rape Wave

Chicago Defender
Chicago,

30h(1)
South

Hint Deliberate Angling By Press

Sat 6-14-47

RICHMOND, Va.—Many people in this city since the first press releases on Godwin (Buddy) Bush's escape from a lynch mob in Rich Square, N.C., have expressed doubt as to the truthfulness of several reports of attacks on white women in various parts of the South.

That so many attacks on white women with the intent to rape should suddenly occur one after another make even some of our leaders in this city wonder how much of these reports are angled in news rooms and how much can be safely regarded as objective reporting. Sat. 6-14-47

From 1888 to 1929, only 23 lynchings out of each 100 were reported to have been caused by alleged or attempted rape against women. During that period, 3,693 persons were lynched. Of the 129 persons lynched from 1929 to 1946, according to the records of Tuskegee Institute, 18 were charged with rape and 25 were charged with attempted rape. Those charged with both offenses made up only a little over a third of the number lynched.

In recent months, some cases of alleged attacks on women by Negroes have been found to be without foundation. In two cases within the past year the women involved admitted that they made the reports on attacks under emotional strain and physical weakness. In one case in Virginia, the judge said that the circumstances surrounding the case were not convincing, and that the white woman's testimony could not be relied upon. He dismissed the charge.

30h(1) 1947 Tennessee

7641

30h(1)

ACQUITTED ON RAPE CHARGE

October 3, 1947

Chattanooga, Tenn.--A brilliant victory for the NAACP was chalked up by Attorney Maurice M. Weaver when he secured the acquittal of Theodore Butts on charges of attempted rape September 26.

Press Service of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

Butts had been accused by a white woman of attacking her on a dark night on a deserted street. Weaver had secured a new trial after a [illegible] first trial had resulted in a conviction of Butts, and on the new trial Weaver's brilliant examination of the prosecution's witnesses broke down their identification of the defendant. 10-3-47

New York, New York

Weaver will be remembered for his participation in the Columbia, Tennessee, case where he together with other NAACP lawyers secured the acquittal of defendants charged with attempted murder.

30h(1)

Nurses, Patients Molested

The Courier

Student Faces Trial in Hospital Terror Reign

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 10-18-47

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A 25-year-old college student was jailed Wednesday shortly after he reportedly spread a reign of terror at Protestant and Hubbard Hospitals. He is John E. Maryland of 1902 Cartwright Street. Maryland was free under $1,000 bond Wednesday night pending grand jury action on two charges of attempt to commit a felony.

Attendants at Hubbard Hospital identfied Maryland, who said he was attending A. and I. State College under the GI Bill of Rights, as the man who attempted to assault a woman patient who had undergone an operation only Tuesday.

The Courier

Maryland was also identified by Protestant Hospital attendants as the man who exposed himself to the hospital's telephone operator only a few minutes after the Hubbard incident, around five o'clock Wednesday morning.

SECOND MAN SOUGHT

10-18-47

About the time Maryland was downstairs at Protestant Hospital, another man, who had gained entrance to the third floor of the institution, pulled a knife on an orderly and then escaped, police said. Officers were searching for him tonight.

Maryland was arrested by City Patrolmen E. B. Morgan and R. L. Farmer, who were among six patrolmen dispatched to the vicinity of the two hospitals after first reports of the incidents were telephoned to police headquarters.

Shortly after the arrest, police brought attendants from both hospitals to headquarters to identify Maryland. Pittsburgh,

MAN IDENTIFIED

Pa.

City Court Judge Andrew Doyle, who bound Maryland over to Criminal Court on the two charges of attempt to commit a felony, said other hospital attendants, both colored and white, had identified the man during the day as the one who had attacked or insulted them recently.

Morgan said Maryland had been identfied as the man who about two weeks ago grabbed a Protestant Hospital nurse in the emergency room. A nurse at Hubbard told police she saw Maryland break through a window screen at the hospital and go down the hall turning the door knobs.

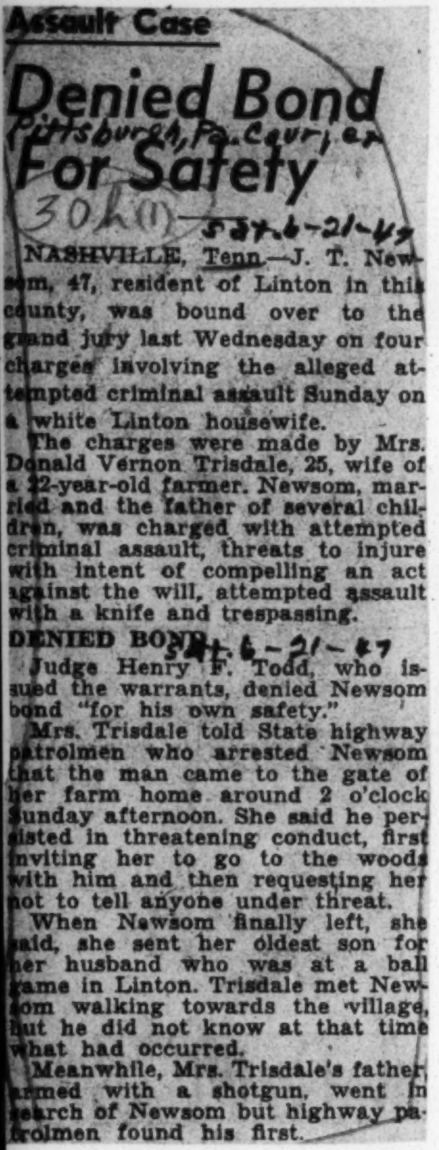
LOST HAT, GLASSES

Sat.

Maryland lost his hat and glasses in scuffles with attendants at Hubbard. Morgan said Maryland admitted ownership of the hat.

His arrest followed a series of attempted purse snatchings and other incidents involving nurses in the vicinity of Protestant Hospital over the past two months.

7642



Assault Case

Denied Bond For Safety

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

30h(1)

Sat. 6-21-47

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—J. T. Newsom, 47, resident of Linton in this county, was bound over to the grand jury last Wednesday on four charges involving the alleged attempted criminal assault Sunday on a white Linton housewife.

The charges were made by Mrs. Donald Vernon Trisdale, 25, wife of a 22-year-old farmer. Newsom, married and the father of several children, was charged with attempted criminal assault, threats to injure with intent of compelling an act against the will, attempted assault with a knife and trespassing.

DENIED BOND

Sat. 6-21-47

Judge Henry F. Todd, who issued the warrants, denied Newsom bond "for his own safety."

Mrs. Trisdale told State highway patrolmen who arrested Newsom that the man came to the gate of her farm home around 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. She said he persisted in threatening conduct, first inviting her to go to the woods with him and then requesting her not to tell anyone under threat.

When Newsom finally left, she said, she sent her oldest son for her husband who was at a ball game in Linton. Trisdale met Newsom walking towards the village, but he did not know at that time what had occurred.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Trisdale's father, armed with a shotgun, went in search of Newsom but highway patrolmen found his first.

Wilson Moore To Stand Trial For Rape Of Girl

Informer Houston Tex.

30h(1) Tex.

HOUSTON—Wilson Moore, 26, of Rt. 3, Box 445, will be tried Monday, May 5, in District Judge Langston G. King's court, in connection with the criminal assault of a 16-year-old white girl, here, last winter.

Moore was previously tried in Judge Allie Peyton's County Court at Law, for carrying a pistol, in connection with the same offense. He received a one year jail term at that time.

It is expected that District Attorney Winborn will ask a jury to give Moore the death penalty when the rape case go before the court Monday. Sat. 5-3-47

Moore was arrested by a posse of officers February 25, and signed a statement admitting he raped a 16-year-old white girl after tieing up the girl's companion.

Following the attack, Moore said in the statement that he took the couple's car and drove away.

The attack occurred near Jensen and Labadie.

Moore was arrested at his home on the Almeda Road, and later confided to officers that he was "high off of weeds" or he never would have committed the crime.

Hearing Set In Alleged Rape Case

30h(1) Tex.

The Informer

Houston, Tex.

HOUSTON — W. E. Robertson, director of the Harris County probation department, said Wednesday that a preliminary hearing involving the alleged criminal assault upon a 7-year-old Negro girl girl of Pelly, by a 17-year-old white youth of the same city, will be held in the Harris County Juvenile criminal department Saturday morning. Sat. 9-13-47

No other events surrounding the circumstances of the case were divuldged by Mr. Robertson, but the nformer learned from authoritative sources that the youth had been arrested in Goosecreek shortly after assaulting the small child Thursday, September 4.

The sources further said that youth is charged with rape, ans is in the custody of the probation department here.

YOUTH SOUGHT IN ALLEGED ATTACK ON AGED WOMAN

30h(1) Tex.

The Informer, Houston

SAN ANTONIO — Police were still o a manhunt for 20-year-old B. J. Thomas, 123 Garcia Street, for the alleged raping of Mrs. Lula Williams, Rogers Street, Saturday night, according to reports.

Sat, 9-13-47

Thomas is alleged to have criminally attacked the woman as she lay on a cot in the yard alone, about 11:30 Saturday night and then fled the scene through bushes in the rear of the above address. According to Mrs. Williams, statement to police she was asleep and awoke when she felt fingers around her throat. She further stated that he continued to choke her during the act and threatened to kill her if she made any noise.

Charged In Criminal Attacks On 4 Girls

30h(1) Texas

The Informer

HOUSTON—Five youths were charged in Judge W. C. Ragan's court Wednesday with criminally attacking four high school girls last Sunday night in the Emancipation Park. They were arrested by Officers Thomas Blake and Marshall Jenkins before dawn Tuesday after the officers had traced them to their homes on descriptions given by the victims.

Houston, Texas

The youths were carried to the Crime Prevention division where they were identified by the girls Wednesday in a police line-up. The five were James Edward Law, 18 address unknown; John Allen Myers, 18, 2502 McGowan; Willie Bee Woodard, 19, 2805 Briley; William Jeff Morris, 17, 4201 Hardy and Willie James Lane, 18, 3603 Dowling. James Edward Law was charged with assault with intent to rape and the others were charged with rape. 9-20-47

10 Others Cleared

The confessions of the five that they were the sole perpetrators of the crime, exonorated 10 others, thought earlier by victims and officers to have been involved. The 10 others, made the total of 15 boys whom the girls first said were involved. Lt. A. W. Ramey of the Crime Prevention division said he learned later from the boys charged that the others had been attracted from the sidewalks of Dowling street by the commotion inside the park fence and had run over when they saw what was going on. They never got a chance to get 'in' on the attack, and ran when they saw the lights from a car approaching, Lieutenant Raincy said.

Crediting the quick arrest of the suspects to the efficient teamwork of the two arresting officers, Lieutenant Rainey said the arrest brought to a quick solution one of the worst criminal sex acts ever committed in Houston.

"It was a commendable piece of detective work by officers Blake and Jenkins. We should all be proud of the efficient work performed by the officers in bringing to an early solution this henious crime," he said. The officers had earlier been release of all other duties to devote all their time to the case.

Sat.

Two Clues Lead To Arrests

Officer Blake said Wednesday that he and Officer Jenkins, his team mate on the case, worked solely on descriptions given by the girls and a name supplied by one of the four boys who had gone as escorts with the girls to the park. Working on these two clues and bits of information picked up here and there, the officers were able to trace the attackers to their respective residences.

The story given by one of the victims Sunday night of how she came to be at the park was discredited by Officer Blake. He said the girl had left home without permission from her mother and had made up the story of how she had been forced into a car and carried to te park by the men who assaulted her. The girl later changed her story to Mrs. Geneva Hartsfield, supervisor of policewomen, and admitted that she had left home to go to a friends' and still later had gone with her friends to the park.

Horrible Stories Told

All of the girls told horrible stories to Mrs. Hartsfield at the Crime Prevention Division Sunday night and were later carried by the policewoman to the Jefferson Davis hospital where tests were made, confirming the horror of the attack, Mrs. Hartsfield said.

The girls told how the pack of mass rapists first walked by several times and eyed them as they were swinging with their escorts in the park swings; of how the pack finally swooped down upon them like vultures, two to a girl pulling and dragging them into the dark recesses of the park where they brutally attacked them in sadistic frenzy as the victims shrieked for help.

30h(1)

One Girl Raped Five Times

Three of the girls were raped from one to five times and the fourth girl managed to escape after struggling with the two that held her and screaming for help from the street that never came. Three of the four boys who were escorts of the girls ran when the gang attempted to make them line up and the fourth boy escaped when he was apparently forgotten, so busy was the gang with their fiendish act. The boys called officers as soon as they could find telephones, but when the officers arrived the attackers had vanished and only three of the girls could be located. 9-20-47

The missing girl, 14-years old and a 10th grade student at Wheatley who had been attacked five times was located the next morning at home with her mother by Lieutenant Rainey. She had told her mother about the attack and the mother was preparing to carry her to the police station when Lieutenant Rainey arrived. The girl was carried to the Crime Prevention division where she related an unbelievable story of horror to Mrs Hartsfield.

She said that she had been attacked five times by three men. She had been taken into the back of the park by the three. Two held her arms around the trunk of a tree and threw her to the ground but before they could attack her, another of the girls who was struggling with two of the attackers nearby began to shriek. The attackers jumped to their feet, pulling her between them so fast that her feet almost never touched the ground, and in this fashion dragged her three blocks across Dowling to the Blackshear school yard. They made her lie down by pulling her feet from under her and one of the attackers whom she identified in the line up-as" bright boy", assaulted her while the other two held her. 9-20-47

Take Turns In Assault

Afterward the other two took turns assaulting her. Then they took her between two buildings and two of the men assaulted her again. The third man then announced that he was going home and the question of what to do with her arose. One of the three who had a gun, asked if the others wanted to shoot her and the others answered, "No," the girl told Mrs. Hartsfield. They then took her to a bus line and told her to go home she said.

The girl who did the shrieking and finally escaped the attackers was 17-years-old, in the High 11th at Wheatley. Her mother is dead and she lives with an aunt and uncle. She is the 14-year-old girl's cousin and she told officers that two men had carried her struggling to the back of the park while holding a knife against her throat.

"They told me to pull off every rag I had on," the girl told Mrs. Hartsfield. She said after she refused the 'tall one' attempted to pull her clothes off and was trying to make her lie down when they saw lights from a car approaching.

Tex.

"I began to scream, rape, rape three times as loud as I could, and they ran off," she said.

One girl, 16, 11th grade student who lives with her mother, said she heard the 17-year-old girl scream as she herself was being assaulted nearby.

"Kick Hre In The Mouth"

"The fellow attacking me kept telling the one attacking the other girl to kick her in the mouth. He slapped me 3 times ond he hit me with his fists," the girl told the policewoman. She said she was raped by two men.

Sat.

The fourth girl, 16, who is the the ninth grade at Yates, said she also heard the other girl screaming while two of the attackers were assaulting her. She said the lights in the park were out and that one of the attackers held guns and knives on the other girls.

She said that two boys took each of the girls into the back of the park and that the two that took her threatened to kill her if she screamed. She was raped once before the girl screamed and that awful crowd came running. The other 10 were frightened away before they could get a chance to take part.

Girl's, Brother Witness

The boys who escorted the four girls to the park for a swing after church were Alton Lyons, 17, James Henderson, 21, of 2110 Hussion, Albert Griffin, 18, of 818 West 26th and Wilson Williams, 19, of 2515 Nashua.

The boys told officers that when the gang of attackers rushed in on them in the park, they ordered the boys to "line up." Alton Lyons said he ran to a telephone and called officers as did the other boys when they could bet away.

Mrs. Hartsfield said that all the girls simultaneously pointed out the suspect called "Bright Boy", with "Thats one of them." She said that the girl said she called him "bright boy" because e seemed to be the leader of the gang and did most of the "directing."

Attempted Rape Case Goes To Grand Jury

30(1) Texas Informer

Huston Texas.

HOUSTON — The attempted rape case in which Eddie Thompson, 25, of 3226 Bremond avenue, is the defendant, was in the possession of the Harris County grand jury Tuesday following testimony given in Justice Tom Maes' court.

Thompson is charged with attempting to criminally assault a 28-year-old lady. The offense is alleged to have occured on October 18.

In bounding the case to the grand jury, Justice Maes set the bond at $500., which the defendant's attorney posted.

From the witness stand the complainant, who lives in the Third Ward, said the only reason that Thompson did not succeed in his attack, was because "he was drunk." Sat. 11-8-47

"I was walking along the street running parallel to old Douglas school," the woman said, "when that (defendant) grabbed me in the back. Sat. 11-8-47

"I struggled to get loose from him, and in doing so, I fell and hurt my ankle.

"He then pulled a knife, and threatened to kill me if I didn't go with him underneath the Old Douglas school building."

The witness then told of how Thompson, whom she said she had men before, had taken preliminary steps toward committing a criminal assault upon her, but fell asleep before actually going through with the offense. It was then, she said, that she called the police.

Herbert B. Short, Houston police officer testified that found the defendant underneath the school sleeping, after the complainant had made a phone call to the police department.

In rebuttal testimony, Thompson denied attempting to rape the lady. He said he and the complainant had "been going together for sometime," and that on the night prior to his arrest, he and the complainant had engaged in illicit relations.

"I was with her on the school ground," the defendant said, "but I did not try to rape her. We only argued over eight dollars she wanted me to give her, I told her I could give her four dollars and fifty cents. That's all the money I had." 30(1) Tex

30h(1) 1947

Texas

7610

Three Persons Injured In Texarkana Assault

TEXARKANA, Nov. 10 — (AP) — Two separate criminal attacks in the Texarkana area—both attributed to Negroes—resulted in the critical wounding of three white persons yesterday.

30h(1)

A special Bowie County constable, R. F. (Bob) Talley, 50, was shot through the head with his own pistol in his automobile near Nash, Tex. Texas

Dist. Atty. Maxwell Welch said a Negro identified as Andrew Hill, 22, had admitted shooting Talley as the officer arrested him for being unruly.

A man and a woman identified by Texarkana, Tex., Police Chief Jack N. Runnels as Meek Wellborn and Mrs. Grace Evans, both of Texarkana, were beaten with a ball peen hammer at a tourist cabin here. The woman said the attack was made by a tall, masked Negro, who demanded money and attempted to rape her. Constitution

Welborn, 47-year-old part owner of a small lumber company, apparently was most critically injured. He suffered brain and head injuries. Atlanta, Ga.

Hospitalized with a skull fracture, Mrs. Evans, 31, was able to give officers her account of the attack.

She said a Negro man climbed through a window.

Half a dozen Negroes were held for questioning.

Hearing Is Set On Morals Charges

Richmond Va.

DANVILLE, May 25—Buford Russell Morton, Negro, will be given a preliminary hearing on June 7 on charges that he criminally attacked a young white married woman of this city over two weeks ago. The alleged victim was removed from a hospital to her home yesterday.

Times Dispatch

Police also said that a second charge of attempted rape of another white woman and a charge of disorderly conduct based, police say, on words said to have been addressed by Morton to a white girl employed in a Danville laundry, will be heard at the same time. Mon. 5-2[illegible]-47

Nude Girl Left In Field to Die

Afro-American

30h(1) Va.

Suspected Attacker Held by Va. Police

Baltimore, Md.

RICHMOND — Found in a vacant lot Saturday about 7:55 a.m., criminally attacked and suffering mortal wounds, Miss Lizzie Coleman, 17, of 2305 E. Franklin St., nude except for a pair of hose, died in an ambulance en route to St. Philip Hospital.

Alexander Green, 20, of 714 E. Market St., Greensboro, N.C., reportedly employed by a local firm for six weeks prior to the attack-murder, was arrested at his North Carolina home Sunday night, returned to this city and given a preliminary hearing in police court Tuesday. Sat. 2-22-47

Following his arraignment on the murder charge, Green's case was continued to Feb. 25, at which time he will again face Justice Jewett. Police exhibited a written confession, reportedly dictated and signed by Green, in which he reportedly admitted the crime.

Police quoted Green as stating that he beat the girl in the face, and stomach, stripping her while she was unconscious, then criminally attacking her in a vacant lot in the rear of 20th and Franklin Sts. about midnight Friday.

Admits Crime, Police Say

He left the scene, boarded a taxicab and threw out the girl's clothing through a window of the cab on 28th St. between Clay and Broad Sts., Green was quoted by police as saying. The clothing has not been located, according to reports at police headquarters.

However, according to Capt. O. D. Garton, chief of the detective bureau, the search both for the girl's clothing and the driver of the taxi is being continued. The clothing consists of a gray suit, white blouse with a flower on it, beige corduroy coat and a pair of black shoes.

Nude Except Stockings

The nude body of the girl, clad only in a pair of black stockings, was discovered in the vacant lot in the rear of 26 N. 21st St. by Norman Campbell, white, of 1505 Libby Ave., while on his way to work at 2001 E. Franklin St. Saturday morning. He notified police. Sat. 2-22-47

An ambulance was dispatched to the scene and the girl, her body covered with dirt and soot from the lot, was placed in the vehicle by attendants. Still unconscious after lying exposed to the elements for approximaely 7 hours, she died en route to the hospital.

Quick work on the part of the local detective bureau is reponsible for the immediate arrest of the alleged killer, who had fled to his home in North Carolina, having left the city within approximately one hour after the crime was committed.

Relatives Identify Body

The young woman was at first unidentified, but after the story appeared in local dailies, members of her family identified the body and gave police the clue that led to the arrest of Green after local officers trailed him to Greensboro.

Captain Garton told the AFRO that after the body was identified and police learned from companions of the girl that she was in Green's company, Friday night, that Green lived in Greensboro and was reported to have gone to his home, he immediately sent two detectives to that city.

The Richmond detectives accompanied Greensboro officers to Green's home, he said, taking the man completely by surprise, found him still wearing bloody clothing and that he had given the dead girl's ring to his wife, who was wearing it on her finger.

At First Denied Slaying

Green was arrested as a suspect, admitting that he had been in the company of the girl, but denied that he either attacked her or killed her. Later he admitted the attack-murder, the officers said, and he was surrendered to them and returned here for trial.

Funeral services for the victim were held Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Walter Manning funeral home, the Rev. A. D. Smith officiating, interment following in Evergreen Cemetery. Sat. 2-22-47

Survivors include her mother Mrs. Betty M. Coleman; three sisters, three brothers and other relatives.

Police Check Discrepancies In Rape Story

Sat 7.5.47

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Va.

NORFOLK — Princess Anne County police on Thursday were continuing their check on the automobile-rape story in which they report having already found several discrepancies, as told by a 33-year-Roanoke white woman, on a visit to this city. 30h(1) Va.

Up until Wednesday afternoon there had been no new developments in the case, the office of Princess Anne County Chief of Police Hobeck said. Earlier in the week Chief Robeck had said he still was questioning the woman in an effort to clear up several bits of evidence uncovered which did not tally with the woman's story. He did not say what the discrepancies were at the time.

TIME ELEMENT DIFFERS

Principally the time elements as given by the woman do not exactly conform with the evidence uncovered, the chief said. He added at that time he was not in a position to explain the difference "yet."

The story as told by the woman alleged that she was picked up on a downtown Norfolk street Thursday night around 9 o'clock by a colored man driving what she thought was a taxi cab. A coat was thrown over her head by somebody in the rear, who then held her while the driver drove around Princess Anne County for about five hours.

She said she was raped twice during that time and afterwards thrown from the car at 3 o'clock Friday morning in the vicinity of Diamond Springs.

According to her story, she then made her way to a restaurant and there was given a bathrobe. Princess Anne County police were called. Officers took her to DePaul Hospital where a physician's examination confirmed an attack. Sat. 7-5-47

A suspect was taken into custody by Norfolk police later in the morning, but after being questioned by Norfolk City and Princess Anne County authorities, was released. [illegible] 7-5-1947

7645

Pair Left Nude, Without Money

30h(1) Va.

Afro-American

17-Year-Old Lass Held Captive 2 Hours

BRANDISHES GUN

Baltimore, Md.

Forced to Walk Down Ravine Near Railroad

RICHMOND—A 17-year-old girl and her 18-year-old male companion were robbed, stripped of their clothing and the girl criminally attacked over the week end, while another woman suffered a similar fate at the hands of a fellow worker.

9-20-47

The girl, who lives in the 1400 block W. Clay St., told police that she and a boy friend were held captive by the lone gunman for more than two hours Friday night in a ravine beside the Seaboard Air Line Railroad tracks near Union University and that the man criminally attacked her.

Both were robbed of their clothing and money, the girl said, and forced to go nude to a house which they had planned to visit to obtain clothing and summon aid after the man had freed the pair when he became panicky at the approach of a railroad train.

En Route to Friend's Home

They were en route to the home of James Percy on Bath St., the couple told investigating officers, and were walking across the railroad tracks shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday when the man walked past them, spoke and continued on his way.

Just a few seconds later, they related, the same man appeared behind them, brandishing a pistol and a large stick, and ordered them to walk down a narrow path into a ravine beside the railroad tracks. He then forced them to disrobe, put their clothes in a pile, and he searched the clothing for money.

Unable to find any large amount of cash, they said, he pulled the girl to one side and criminally attacked her while holding off her escort with the pistol. He then forced them to sit in the ravine for more than an hour before releasing them at the approach of the train.

Go Visiting in Nude

Following their release, they went on to the home of Mr. Jones, their original destination—secured some clothing and notified police of the crime. Although the girl, member of a prominent family, had only 45 cents in her purse, according to police, their loss was estimated at more than $100.

Included in the estimate was the amount (undisclosed) that the young man had on him and the value of the clothing of both. The young man was listed as Charles Stubbs of 903 Bowe St., according to police records.

The young woman was carried to St. Philip Hospital following the attack and examined and treated by Dr. Markowitz, staff physician, who confirmed her story that she had been the victim of criminal attack. No arrest had been made at a late hour Tuesday.

Second Attack Reported

In another attack case, a 28-year-old woman who lives at 306 E. Leigh St., reported to police Monday night that a fellow worker, on the pretext of taking her home, carried her instead to a secluded spot under Fifth St. bridge and criminally attacked her.

She told officers that she and James Lipper of R.F.D. 1, Box 104, Glen Allen, both employed at J. B. Hughes Motor Co., left their place of employment about 4 p.m. in Lipper's auto supposedly en route to her home, but that the man attacked her under the bridge about 7:15.

When the man attempted the attack, she said, a violent struggle ensued and he tore off her clothing and kicked her with such force that a bone in her left hip was broken. Following the attack, she said, Lipper took her to her home.

Reporting the crime to police following her arrival home, she was carried to St. Philip Hospital in a municipal ambulance. She is still in the hospital under treatment for a fractured hip, while the man is being held by police.

30h(1) 1947

Washington

7646

Was Guilty of Attack at Carter Lake

Register

Des Moines, Iowa

(Special to The Register.)

TACOMA, WASH. — A middle-aged woman and her daughter were hacked to death here Thursday by a burglar who identified himself as Jake Bird — the "hatchet man" who terrified Omaha, Neb., two decades ago. 10-31-47-Fri.

The victims were Mrs. Bertha Kludt, 53, a widowed baker in a department store, and her 17-year-old daughter, Beverly June, attractive Tacoma High school graduate. 30h(1)

Prisoner in Iowa.

Captured in a struggle with two policeman as he fled from the home, Bird confessed killing the women with an axe, and told of being released from the Iowa penitentiary in 1941.

The last of the Omaha "hatchet man" crimes occurred in Carter Lake, Iowa community on the Nebraska side of the Missouri river, and as a result Bird in 1929 had been sentenced to 30 years in the Iowa penitentiary. Register

Three persons were hacked to death in the Omaha crimes.

Bird, a 45-year-old Negro, came here as a transient a few days ago, according to Police Lieutenant P. O. Brown. He said he had been working on a railroad "extra gang" at Pocatello, Idaho.

Women Awakened.

He told officers he entered the Kludt home for burglary and killed the women when they awakened. An attempt had been made to rape Mrs. Kludt, however, and that may have been his motive, police said.

Mrs. Kludt was found dead beside her bed. Beverly June's body was found in the blood-spattered kitchen.

Victim, Killer

Register

Beverly June Kludt.
Victim of Hatchet Slaying.

10-31-47 - Fri.

Jake Bird.
Served 20 Years in Iowa

As he left the house, Bird made a wild dash trying to escape from Policemen A. P. Sabutis and Evan Davies, then struggled with the two officers. Sabutis was stabbed in the back, and Davies suffered gashed hands. Des Moines, Iowa

Omaha Murders.

The ax murders that terrified Omaha took place in November, 1928.

J. W. Blackman, a 75-year-old expressman, lived alone in a home in a west end district. On Sunday, Nov. 18, his son came to visit him and found Blackman's chopped body. The murderer had left a bloodstained hatchet in a woodshed behind the house.

Milkman's Family.

Monday afternoon, slightly more than 24 hours later Walter Resso, a milkman, returned home from his route. The chopped body of his 21-year-old wife lay on a bed downstairs. Upstairs was the body of her sister, Greta Brown, 18, slain with the same hatchet.

30h(1)

In a crib beside the body of Mrs. Resso was the couple's 9-month-old baby, unharmed.

The Harold Striblings, living in Carter Lake, became victims of the "hatchet man" before another 24 hours had passed. Register

The attacker broke into their home about 3 a. m. Tuesday and began beating Stribling, a former athlete, over the head with an ax.

Wash

Wife Awakened.

Mrs. Stribling awakened to find her bleeding husband—his skull was fractured—pleading with a young, light-skinned Negro for his life. 10-31-47-Fri.

The Negro turned to Mrs. Stribling and asked if she had a baby. He insisted on seeing the baby and stood over its crib for several minutes.

Then, ordering Mrs. Stribling to put on her fur coat over her night gown, he had her accompany him from the house in the early morning hours into the Carter Lake swamps.

The man finally freed her three hours later, after she had been criminally assaulted. Both of the Striblings survived.

Claimed Witnesses.

Bird was arrested a few days later. A waiter and gambler at the time, he protested his innocence, claiming to have witnesses to prove he had been in a Negro night club when at least one of these crimes had been committed.

Feeling was running high in Omaha, and a reward of several thousand dollars had been raised.

When Mrs. Stribling positively identified Bird, officers began a tour of Iowa jails with him for safekeeping.

The trial at Council Bluffs found Bird still insisting that he was innocent and certain members of the Omaha police department testified in his behalf.

She Was Positive.

It was claimed that the real "hatchet man" was confined by that time in an Illinois mental institution.

Mrs. Stribling was on the stand for eight hours, and her identification of Bird could not be shaken. The jury convicted him and Judge Earl Peters of Clarinda sentenced him to 30 years for assault.

Iowa authorities said Bird was released from the state penitentiary Dec. 24, 1941, after serving his full 30-year term, less time off for good behavior.

30h(2) 1947

Alabama

7647

Divorcee Gives Her Version Of Alleged Attack By Youths

Birmingham News June 2-6-47

Birmingham, Ala.

A 25-year-old divorcee took the witness stand in Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's court yesterday afternoon to testify that she was criminally attacked by four teen-age Woodlawn youths in a wooded area near Birmingham June 21, 1946.

The woman was the state's second witness against William T. Davidson, 18, of 5133 Seventh Avenue, South. Earlier in the trial, which opened Tuesday, a 21-year-old employe of a Birmingham drug store had told the court she was criminally attacked on the same occasion by Davidson and two other youths.

Davidson is charged with criminal attack in two cases, as are William N. Fullington 18, of Municipal Airport, and Robert Nunn, 17, of 6804 Second Avenue, South. A fourth defendant, Eugene McQueen, 18, of 515 55th Court, South, is charged with criminal attack in one case.

Miss Beatrice Ray, of 7925 First Avenue, North, testified yesterday afternoon that the two alleged victims came to her home about 11 p.m., June 21, falling on the floor of her front porch, crying hysterically.

Birmingham News June 2-6-47

Other witnesses testifying yesterday were Sam Bell, who told the jury the four defendants and the two alleged victims came to a service station at 5500 First Avenue, South, where he was employed, at about 8 p.m., June 21, and City Detective E. B. Lewis, who arrested the four defendants.

Birmingham, Ala.

Asst. Circuit Solicitors E. C. Watson, Jr., and Cecil Deason are prosecuting the cases against Davidson. The defendant is represented by Attys. Roderick Beddow, Jake Taylor and Howard Perdue.

Man Held For Attack On Young White Woman

30h(2) Ala.

Birmingham News Jun 1-17-47

Birmingham, Ala.

Horace Knighton, 26, 113 Findlay Avenue, was in the Southside Jail today on a charge of criminal assault of a young white woman who told police he lured her into the woods near North Birmingham on the pretext of taking her to a dance.

City physicians, who examined the girl yesterday, said she had been ravished.

Officers W. H. Fulgham and C. B. Alvis, who investigated, said they were told by the young woman that she met Knighton at a downtown cafe and that he invited her to a dance in North Birmingham.

They rode a bus to North Birmingham and after getting off there, the victim told the officers, Knighton took her to a wooded area, where the dance supposedly was being held, and attacked her.

Thorsby Youth Held As Attacker Of Girl, 5

30h(2) News

Birmingham, Ala.

THORSBY, Ala., May 15—An 18-year-old Thorsby youth was being held in the Chilton County Jail at Clanton charged with criminal attack on a 5-year-old girl near here.

Thorsby Chief of Police A. W. Livingston said the youth, J. T. Battle, a pulpwood worker, confessed after he was taken into custody earlier yesterday on a warrant sworn out by the child's mother.

The girl is under the care of a physician at the parent's home, near Thorsby, he said.

Assisting the Thorsby police chief in making the arrest were Police Officer Ellis Jones, Thorsby, and Police Chief Buddy Ellison, Jemison.

Indict 3 Whites Charged With Rape Of Women, Age 40

30h(2)

Daily World

Atlanta Ga.

Jul. 10-7-47

OZARK, Ala. — (ANP) — Three white men were indicted by a special grand jury here Thursday on a charge of raping a 40-year-old woman last Sept. 4. Those indicted were Lawrence Price, 29; William G. Lane, 25, both of Graveville, Fla., and John Gavin, 25 of Bonifay, Fla.

They were accused of picking up the woman in their car and then raping her. The woman's name was not disclosed. Circuit Judge J. S. Williams termed the assault was a "horrible crime."

Indict 3 Whites For Assault On Negro Woman, 40

30h(2)

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 10-11-47

OZARK, Ala.—Three white men were indicted by a special grand jury here Thursday on a charge of raping a 40-year-old colored woman last Sept. 4. Those indicted were Lawrence Price, 29; William G. Lane, 25, both of Graveville, Fla., and John Gavin, 25, of Bonifay, Fla.

Girl, 12, Reports Attack In Avondale

News

Birmingham, Ala.

A citywide police search is under way to find an unidentified white man who reportedly criminally attacked a 12-year-old girl near her home in Avondale last

30h(2) Ala.

Parents of the girl told police she left home about 6 p.m. to go to a neighborhood store. The girl told police that while she was in the store a man asked her where another girl lived. June 11-4-47

The child told police she volunteered to show the man the way. When they had walked to a point in front of her own home, the girl told police, she indicated the house the man had asked about.

At that time, police quoted the girl as saying, the man grabbed her, dragged her into an alley and attacked her. News Birmingham

The child was taken to Hillman Hospital by Ridout. Ala.

City Detectives G. V. Evans and M. O. Thorn are investigating the case. They reported the girl had been choked and that her clothing was torn.

Tried To Attack Girl After Crash, Is Charge

Birmingham News

Birmingham, Ala.

A 24-year-old Montgomery man was being sought today on charges of trying to rape a Birmingham girl who had been knocked unconscious when the reportedly stolen automobile in which they were riding, overturned near the city, police said.

30h(2) Ala.

The pretty 17-year-old Woodlawn girl was treated and dismissed from Hillman Hospital where attendants said she had cuts and bruises from the auto accident but was otherwise unharmed. June 10-28-47

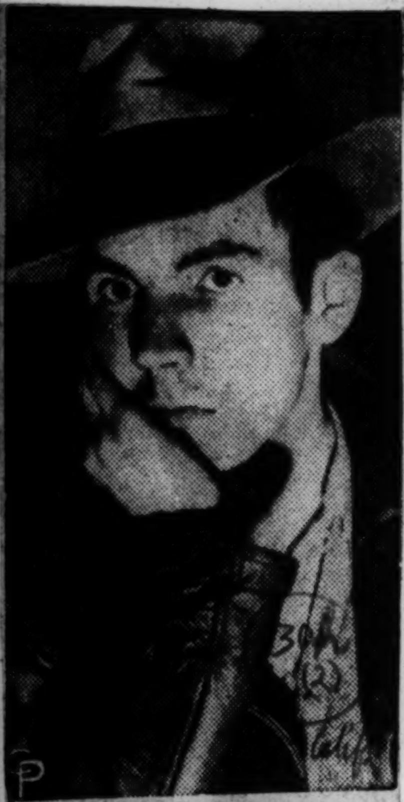
City Detectives Murray Hancock and J. W. Henson said the auto in which the victim was riding, had been stolen from Deland, Fla. The Montgomery man charged with attempt at rape, was allegedly driving when the auto turned over about eight miles west of the city on Highway 78. The four other occupants of the car were uninjured, police said. June 10-28-47

According to Detectives Hancock and Henson, a passerby brought the victim and the other occupants of the car to the home of the victim. An attempt at rape alledgedly occurred in the side yard of the victim's home after all but two of the car's occupants had gone into the house.

The FBI has been called into the case, detectives said.

30h(2) 1947 California

7648



ADMITS OLD CRIME—Following his arrest by Los Angeles police for attempting to attack a 15-year-old girl, John Carlson, a 22-year-old mental institute parolee, admits to authorities that he criminally attacked and killed 6-year-old Shirley Bell in San Bernardino four years ago.

MOTHER OF 3 SLAIN IN CRIME ON COAST

Times

Murder Is Fifth in Los Angeles Area This Year—Arrest Made in Previous Case

Times 5-13-47

LOS ANGELES, May 12 (AP)—Mrs. Laura Trelstad, 37 years old, the mother of three children, was found bludgeoned and garrotted today, the fifth victim of a series of sadistic sex slayings which began with the butchery of the "Black Dahlia" in January.

Mrs. Trelstad's body was found soon after dawn on an isolated road leading to the Signal Hill oil field, in North Long Beach. Officers spent hours trying to identify her before they traced a cleaner's mark in a coat crumpled beneath her body.

Her husband, Ingman, a truck driver, told officers that she left a party of friends Sunday afternoon, saying that she was going to a dance, and had not been seen since.

Discovery of Mrs. Trelstad's body came only a few hours after Sheriff's deputies announced they had booked Thomas F. Montgomery, 42, the husband of the fourth sex-slaying victim, on suspicion of murder.

Mrs. Trelstad, unlike her predecessors, had not been mutliated. But police said a preliminary examination indicated that she had been raped. Her peacock blue dress, of expensive cut, had been torn. On one hand were two wedding rings, one white gold, the other yellow. She had been strangled with a strip apparently torn from a pair of men's blue and white shorts.

After an examination of tire marks and footprints along the isolated road near a North Long Beach oilfield, deputies ordered the body removed to a morgue.

The Trelstad slaying joined a list which includes the 22-year-old "black dahlia," Elizabeth Short, whose severed body was found in a vacant lot Jan. 15; Jeanne Oxford French, 45-year-old aviatrix and bit actress, whose torso bore an obscene inscription in lipstick; Evelyn Winters, 50, former film studio secretary, stabbed and bludgeoned, and Mrs. Dorothy Montgomery, 36, church-loving housewife whose nude body was found May 3 beneath a pepper tree.

Sheriff's Inspector Norris G. Stensland disclosed today that Mrs. Montgomery's husband had been arrested Friday as he prepared to take his wife's body to Maplehill, Kan., for cremation.

Montgomery, a truck driver, testified at a coroner's inquest that the last time he saw his wife she was leaving the house about 9:30 P. M., May 2, to drive to a playground where their daughter, Maycille, was attending a dance. He said he went for a walk with the dog at about the same hour.

Mrs. Montgomery was reported missing later that night, and her body was found the following day.

'My conscience is clear," Montgomery told reporters. 5/13/47

Sex Murder Is Averted By Motorist

Times-Dispatch Richmond, Va.

LOS ANGELES, May 24—(UP)—Mrs. Violet Eunice Asher, 43, was found bleeding and mutilated today and the arrival of a passing motorist averted another apparent sex murder, sheriff's deputies said.

Mrs. Asher is in a critical condition in General Hospital, her body painfully bitten and the flesh around her mid-section torn.

Henry Alfred Hampton, 39, construction worker at North Long Beach, was held in county jail on suspicion of rape. He denied any connection with the case, however. Sunday

Hampton was traced by sheriff deputies to his home after Robert Smith, the motorist who found Mrs. Asher gasping in a lonely road near Norwalk, spotted the license number of a car he saw parked near her. 5-25-47

"If you hadn't arrived when you did, he would have killed me," Mrs. Asher told Smith, regarding her assailant.

The circumstances of the attack on Mrs. Asher were similar to the mutilation murder of Mrs. Laura Trelstad in Long Beach May 12, the fifth of the series of sex murders that started with the case of Elizabeth Short, "The Black Dahlia," January 15.

Hampton, according to officers, admitted meeting Mrs. Asher, North Long Beach mother of a six-year-old boy, in a Long Beach tavern last night but he denied going out with her later.

Mrs. Trelstad is believed to have met a man in a Long Beach tavern several hours before she met death. Times 5-20-47

Bus Companion Sought As Raped Child Found

Bham. Ala. News

Tues. 6-17-47

YREKA, Calif., June 17—(AP)—A 3-year-old girl, beaten, raped and left in a clump of bushes, was unidentified today as police hunted a man seen leaving a bus with the girl and then boarding another alone. Tues. 6-17-47

Physicians at the Siskiyou General Hospital said they apparently have saved the youngster's life. She has been unable to tell nurses her name. Her eyes were swollen shut and her body blackened with bruises, the hospital reported.

Deputy Sheriff Dan Bennett said a man was seen boarding a northbound bus 10 hours before the girl was found yesterday. They were seen together leaving a southbound bus at Weed at 2:27 a.m. Sunday.

Police were baffled by lack of reports of a child missing in Oregon or Northern California.

Soldier Is Held In Attack Case

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

Sun.

7-20-47

SAN DIEGO, July 19.—(U.P.)—Military authorities at the Fairfield-Suisun Army Airbase 50 miles northwest of San Francisco were asked today to detain Sgt. Frank W. Adams for questioning in the criminal attack and slaying of pretty Mrs. Marian Davidson Newton here last Thursday.

Detective Lieutenant Ed Dieckmann said Adams had been identified as the smiling, blond young man who posed in a sidewalk picture taken in Tijuana, Mex., with the 36-year-old Canadian divorcee whose strangled and ravished body was later found in a park here.

Dieckmann said Adams met Mrs. Newton Sunday night at the Paris Inn, a downtown nightclub. The pair then visited Tijuana, Ensenada and Rosarita on a two-day Mexican holiday. Sun. 7-20-47

When they returned to the United States, Adams signed a customs declaration for items he had purchased in Mexico, including the Mexican beads and white coat the victim was wearing when her body was found.

30h(2) 1947 California

7649

COAST WOMAN ATTACKED

30h(2) Times Calif

She Is Sixth Victim of Savage Assailant in Los Angeles Area

New York N.Y.

LOS ANGELES, May 24 (U.P.)—Mrs. Violet E. Asher, 43 years old, was found bleeding and mutilated on a lonely road here today in the sixth savage sex attack in the Los Angeles area this year. A passing motorist took her to a hospital, where she was in a critical condition.

Mrs. Asher, who lives in North Long Beach, is the mother of a six-year-old boy. Police believed she had been thrown from a passing car at the place where she was found.

She had suffered an attack similar to that on Elizabeth Short, the "Black Dahlia," and the four other slaying victims found here since Jan. 15. 5-25-47

Colored Nurse Raped

30h(2) Black Dispatch

LOS ANGELES.—(ANP)—Mrs. Effie Martin, 29-year-old nurse, was the victim of an attack by four rapists, described by her as being "either Mexican or Caucasian," here last week. Mrs. Martin was returning to her home in the westside district when the four men forced her into their car. Driving her to a lonely spot, all assaulted her and robbed her of a platinum fountain pen, valued at $1,000, and her clothes, worth $500. She was then thrown out of the car. 7-20-47 Oklahoma City Okla

Indignant citizens are seeking the arrest of the four hoodlums. Contradictory to southern propaganda, crime records here show that three times as many rapes and attempted rapes are committed by whites as by Negroes.

7650

Chinese Co-Ed Identifies Suspect In Attack Case

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

PEIPING, Jan. 18—(U.P.)—A 19-year-old Chinese co-ed pointed across a military courtroom today at Corp. William Gaither Pierson, and said he was the American Marine who allegedly attacked her twice Christmas Eve.

(30h(2) China

Pierson's face reddened, but he did not reply. He already has denied attacking the girl, but concedes having had intimate relations with her.

Asked to identify her attacker, the girl looked around the court room until her eyes fell on Pierson.

Jan. 1-19-47

"There he is," she shouted angrily, and pointed a fineger at him.

She gave a detailed account of the alleged attacks which touched off anti-American demonstrations throughout China.

Navy Court Ponders Chinese Girl's Charge; Outbreak Threatened

News
(30h(2) China
Birmingham, Ala.

BY TOM MASTERSON

PEIPING, Jan. 21—(AP)—In an atmosphere so tense that U. S. Marine officials predicted violent anti-American outbreaks would follow in case of an acquittal, a U. S. Navy court tonight deliberated a Chinese co-ed's charges that Marine Corp. William G. Pierson twice raped her.

Marine officials said their compounds would be safeguarded immediately and all military personnel alerted if Pierson is acquitted.

Three weeks ago the rape charge was used by Chinese students in several cities, including Shanghai, Nanking and Peiping, as the springboard for "get-out-of-China" demonstrations and vitriolic insults against Americans.

Jan. 1-21-47

Lt. Col. John H. Masters, Anderson, S. C., Pierson's attorney, told the court the girl, Shen Chung, 19, made the rape accusation "to get out of an embarrassing position in which she had been caught."

Masters said no rape charge was made until the day following the alleged incident and "not until after she had talked with her brother-in-law. "It is natural for a well-to-do-girl, caught in the act of fornication, to explain it as an act of rape," he contended.

* * *

PIERSON PLEADED nolo contendere (no contest) to a fornication charge and innocent to four other charges, including one of rape.

Lt. Col. Paul A. Fitzgerald, the judge advocate (prosecutor) argued the evidence proved Pierson raped the girl and said she "did all reasonable to manifest her opposition."

He demanded conviction on four charges—rape, assault with intent to commit rape and two of misconduct. They carry respective maximum sentences of life imprisonment, 20 years and three and six months, pus dishonorable discharge.

Masters argued the co-ed's testimony was not corroborated and that she bore no marks of violence; that no one, not even Chinese soldiers and police who testified they were within 20 feet of the couple, heard an outcry; that there were no marks on Pierson, despite the girl's testimony that she struggled three and a half hours.

The court will inform Pierson of any charges of which he has been acquitted—but not any of which he has been convicted, as is Navy court-martial custom. Sentences would not be announced until approved by higher authorities.

Bare Third-Degree of Raped Chinese Co-Ed

Daily Worker

By Helen Simon (30h(2)

Kuomintang police subjected Miss Shen Chung, Chinese co-ed, to brutal third degree treatment to make her retract her charge of rape against two United States Marines, it was revealed yesterday.

New York, N.Y.

The China Daily News told the story of Miss Shen's experiences at the Peiping police station on Christmas Day, when the girl student asserted two American Marines waylaid and raped her on the Polo Grounds near the foreign embassies.

Wed. 1-22-47

Police tried to beat her into denying she was raped, or that she was under 20 years old or that she was a student at Peking University. They failed.

Wed-1-22-47

As the case developed, leaflets—or "mosquito papers"—issued by the Kuomintang's viciously reactionary C. C. Clique, implied that Miss Shen was a Yenan agent sent to Peiping to cause trouble.

The truth is that she is the grand-daughter of Shen Pao-cheng, imperial governor of Kwantung and Kwangsi, and the daughter of a high Kuomintang official in the Ministry of Communications at Nanking.

New York, N.Y.

Students of the C. C. Clique faction tried to disrupt every meeting called to protest the rape. They tried to confuse the issue by raising questions about Russia and pleading for the sanctity of Chinese-American relations.

But from the first mass meeting on Dec. 27 of Peking Universitv co-eds, whole student bodies have turned out in unquenchable parades and demonstrations to demand:

Daily Worker

Protests to the American authorities. Demand that the culprit be tried publicly and punished and that damages be paid the victim.

An official apology.

Withdrawal of American troops immediately from China.

"Whoever invites American troops to China is responsible for such tragedies," they said.

May Take 6 Months

PEIPING, China, Jan. 21 (UP).—The seven-man U. S. Navy Court Martial that tried Marine Cpl. William C. Pierson on a charge of raping a Chinese co-ed retired today to deliberate upon its decision.

(30h(2)

It was understood that the findings of the court will be sent to Washington for review by Navy authorities there and it might be six months before the final verdict is announced.

Wed. 1-22-47

30h(2) 1947

Delaware

7651

Vagrant Confesses Slaying Maryland, Delaware Women

30h(2) Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

WILMINGTON, Del., June 18—(UP)—A 37-year-old vagrant has confessed to the criminal-assault slaying of an Elkton, Md., widow and the ax slaying of a 79-year-old Delaware widow, State police announced today. Thurs 6-19-47

The suspect, John Chupaska, formerly of Lorain, Ohio, originally was arrested on a vagrancy charge in Louisville, Ky., and was serving a 30-day jail term there.

He was turned over to authorities here when further questioning linked him with the two slayings of the two widows, police said. Both women were slain near Wilmington last April.

Major Herbert Barnes, commanding the Delaware State Police, said Chupaska signed two confessions and re-enacted the sex slaying of Mrs. Belle L. Wilson, 43, Elkton, Md., and the ax slaying of Mrs. Marietta Rittenhouse, 79, Wilmington. No motive was given for the second crime.

Chupaska waived hearing before Magistrate George A. Pedrick at New Castle and was committed to the county workhouse to await trial.

Mrs. Wilson's ravished body was found in a marsh just off the DuPont Highway on April 12. She had come to Wilmington from Elkton the night before to attend a movie. Her teeth were knocked out and her clothes torn off. Thurs. 6-19-47

Mrs. Rittenhouse was hacked to death on April 30 with an ax in her lonely farmhouse only six miles from the scene of Mrs. Wilson's slaying.

A 10-year-old boy who went to visit "Aunt Marietta," as the elderly widow was known to friends, found her body in a second-floor bedroom. A trail of blood led from the front yard through the house. A blood-stained ax was on the first floor.

Major Barnes quoted Chupaska as saying he lived in a hidden shack under a causeway near Wilmington before killing Mrs. Wilson. Then he hid in the woods for 20 days, Barnes said.

Police flyers were sent to 13 states after authorities reasoned a vagrant was responsible for the deaths of both women because the crimes were committed near railroad tracks.

30h(2) 1947 Florida

7652

NEGRO GIRL RAPED BY WHITE MAN; SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN CHRAGE OF INVESTIGATION; GIRL SIGNS STATEMENT, MAN WELL KNOWN HERE

30h(2) Fla.

The Fla. Tattler

Flash!!

Jacksonville, Fla.

At a preliminary hearing this week Stuckers, white, accused rapist, was Exonerated. The Tattler and the NAACP, have combined their forces and will demand an immediate arrest and a re-hearing before the Grand Jury.

Victim refuses to prosecute the accused white man, but she will settle it all for a cash sum it was reported.

Sat. 2-22-47

A week ago the Tattler warned all Negro women about fake Want (Ad) jobs in the white neighborhood. Well this became a reality on Friday night, February 14, when a Negro young lady was raped by one Mr. Stuckers (white man) four miles out the Phillips Highway.

The young lady made a statement to the Tattler Editor on Saturday morning, February 15, of the rape, and the Editor immediately called Det. Inspector Acosta and two very highly intelligent detectives answered the summons, questioned the girl, took her before the county doctor, then turned the case over to the Sheriff's office for action. The rapist, it is believed, is in jail awaiting action from the grand jury.

It was reported that Mr. Stuckers is a prominent business man out Southside.

The victim also stated that after she was raped the rapist brought her back home, and the rapist told her that he would pick her up again on Saturday morning, February 15, around 8 o'clock. He did come by at 9:30, and asked the victim, "How much do I owe you?" The victim loud talked him and he became frightened and left. Around 10 o'clock he sent the victim's pocketbook by a Negro boy.

The victim also stated that Mr. Stuckers threatened her life if she told anyone of the raping. She said that she was not afraid and that's why she told it to the Tattler.

The Tattler appreciates such women who have the guts to stand behind a statement, and are willing and ready to see it through. This is the only way in which we can be of great assistance.

Sat. 2-22-47

We are asking that other Negro girls and women report all attempted or rape cases to us for proper action.

Raping must stop, whether it be white or black, and the guilty one or ones will be punished according to law.

WANT "AD" FAKE TO SOLICIT NEGRO WOMEN FOR GIRL FRIENDS

30h(2) Fla.

The Fla. Tattler Jacksonville, Fla.

A Want (Ad) appeared last week in one of our daily papers for a Negro woman, between the age of 35 and 40, for a good job.

A certain Negro woman answered (Ad) oht in the Murray Hill section at a white business place. The white man greeted the woman with a smile, told her how much salary was to be paid and the hours. When the woman asked him, "What will be my duty?" the reply—"I want a Negro girl friend." When the woman resented the reply the white man became frightened and begged her not to tell anyone about the interview. The woman told the Tattler about the incident, but refused to tell the place and the white man's name. Sat. 2-8-47

As Negroes, we can only protect our women as far as they will let us.

If this incident was only reversed, there would have been a lynching immediately.

Several years ago a Negro girl answered a "Want Ad" for a job. The white man met her at Main and State Streets in an automobile—he took her away out on the outside of town and raped her.

This is only a warning to our Negro women to watch their step whenever answering to a "Want Ad." Always have someone with you for protection. There is too much low down dirty stuff going on between white men and Negro women already. Most white people hate the Negro, but they want our women for illicit purposes.

Take heed to this warning and report all such cases to the Florida Tattler.

RAPIST RUNS RAMPANT ON EAST-SIDE

30h(2) Fla.

The Florida ~~Tattler~~

Dear Editor Taylor: Jacksonville, Fla.

An infamous sex fiend is on rampage again after his attack on a mother of five children. She was attended by a very competent and popular physician of this city.

Mrs.................. was badly beaten by this sex degenerate, and of course Mr. (dog)............... was released to continue his lust by violence, due to the "pull" of his white boss and a few hungry thugs he dug up from the gutter. Sat. 6-7-47

Mr.............. threatened Mrs............. after she appeared in court against him. Mr............ had the police to crack down on her husband because he was trying to protect her. The court charged her husband for "being prepared."

This is not Mr............'s first attack on some poor defenseless female with his thugs.

He is employed by a whiskey store on the east side.

I have known his parents for over thirty years and was a friend and neighbor for that period of time and he has always been upheld in his sex rackets against decent humanity by his so-called parents.

I am fifty-years of age and have three daughters.

So girls beware of a green 'Buick' driven by a sex monster. His parents and white boss will back his attacks.

Negroes should not be permitted to trade where their wives and daughters are subject to attack by those methods previously described.

Is it true that the Negro still does not care for his women? The white man still protects his.

Why must we support a business that believes in the raping of our women. Sat. 6-7-47

I think every Negro paper in the nation should know of this, and Mr. Taylor, we of Jax. know you have the guts to help dethrone this sex king and his fascist aids.

If it becomes necessary you shall have my name to print.

NEGROES DON'T SUPPORT A BUSINESS WHERE EMPLOYEES CAN RAPE OUR WOMEN WITH PROTECTION FROM THEIR BOSSES.

Signed
W.G.A.

Miami Girl Assaulted

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa. 30h(2)

Rapist Beaten

By Two Men

Sat. 8-16-47

By JOHN A. DIAZ
(Miami Bureau)

MIAMI, Fla.—Dragged from her bicycle by a white sex fiend, a 13-year-old girl was forced into an auto and taken off into bushes near Modello, twenty-two miles from here, where she was raped. Two other white men, hearing her screams, rescued her and administered a severe beating to the rapist.

The incident, which occurred last month, came to light through a sworn statement by the girl, member of a respectable family, who told her story to investigators. After her rescue she was taken to the county hospital at Kendall where a medical examination was performed. Doctors there told the tearful mother that the child had suffered no harm.

NO ARREST MADE 30h(2)

According to the mother, one of the investigators in the case told her: "Your child is still virtuous, something rare among N——s." No arrest had been made at press-time but police are believed to be gathering evidence for presentation to a grand jury. Fla.

The girl said that on July 24 she was riding her bicycle on her way home from the nearby Naranja Post Office and she was followed by an automobile, the driver of which came up beside her and commanded her to stop, driving so close that he forced her to dismount her bicycle. Sat 8-16-47

PULLED INTO CAR

She said that the man then took her by the wrist and pulled her into the automobile, which he drove off—holding one hand over her mouth to keep her from screaming, while he drove with the other hand.

During the wild ride the girl managed to pull out the car's ignition key, which she threw into the road. The auto came to a sudden halt, almost overturning. The man then pulled her out of the car and into the bushes where the assault took place, she said.

RESCUED BY PAIR

According to her story, two other white men heard her screaming after the attack of nearly five minutes. They came into the bushes and pulled the man away from her. He resisted and one of the men struck her attacker, who told them: Kill me if you want to."

Little was said about the affair until the girl made her sworn statement revealing the facts in the case. The NAACP has expressed an interest in the situation.

COUNTY HOSPITAL SCENE OF DEPLORABLE ACT

30 h (2)

The Florida Tattler - Jacksonville, Fla.

NOTE: *This story is not to be confused with the incident that happened in this very same hospital a few weeks ago. We hate to print things of this type but someone must let the world know how our Negro women are being treated and nothing is ever done about it. If our women aren't safe in the hospitals, they certainly aren't safe in the streets.*

Sat. 8-9-47

It was reported to this office from an authoritative source that on last Saturday about 6:40 A. M., a white man entered the emergency ward of the Duval County Hospital, where a Negro woman lay, suffering from a stroke at the brain, and raped the unconscious woman.

An eye-witness said, "I saw this man with my own eyes and he was not under the influence of whiskey. The night-shift nurse called the police while I held the rapist, but when the police arrived and after having conversed with the nurse, she stated that the rapist was caught before he could get to the woman, but I have proof that she is lying."

If this particular case had involved a colored man and a white woman, Jacksonville would probably have had its name blackened with a race riot or a lynching.

We feel that this white offender should suffer the full penalties of the law.

Three of our Negro youths were electrocuted in Raiford last Monday for the alleged rapings of white women. They didn't go free or have much of a chance, so why should this white offender of the law go free?

7653

Linked to Jewelry, Camera Taken Here

Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

30h(2)

By KEELER McCARTNEY

Texas authorities Friday were asked to post a lookout for three men wanted for questioning in connection with the death of Mrs. Margaret Alston Refoule, 31-year-old socialite who was slain, robbed and assaulted at her fashionable Northwest Side home Wednesday.

The request was made by Fulton Police Capt. Fred Bradford after Clyde, Texas, police notified him that two white men, speaking with a foreign accent, and a Negro were reported seen there with jewelry and a camera similar to that taken from the Refoule home at 2450 Howell Mill Rd., Northwest. Sat 3-17-47

Mrs. Refoule, who met her husband, Paul, while she was studying in France, gave up her United States citizenship in order to return to France to be near her husband after the Nazis marched on that country.

Refoule was captured and imprisoned by the Nazis. He later escaped. The Refoules returned to the United States after the war ended.

Clyde police said the men left that town about 13 miles east of Abilene, Friday morning, after inquiring the distance and direction to Fort Worth, which is about 135 miles east of Clyde. All Texas authorities, and particularly Austin police, have been requested to watch for the men.

The two white men were described as being between 35 and 40 years of age, wearing sports clothes and of slender build. The Negro was clad in Army clothes and was extremely tall. His age was estimated at about 25.

They were reported traveling together.

Mrs. Refoule probably was killed after surprising a burglar, Assistant Fulton Police Chief E. G. Fitzgerald said Friday in comparing the case with the sensational slaying of Henry Heinz, prominent Atlanta banker.

In the Heinz slaying which occurred Sept. 28, 1943, the banker surprised a Negro burglar and was shot in the ensuing scuffle.

Fitzgerald, who helped solve that mystery and is working on the Refoule murder, said he believed the circumstances were similar.

Mrs. Refoule, whose death has been fixed as occurring between 3 and 3:30 p. m. Wednesday, was ironing in her second-story bedroom facing the door, Fitzgerald believes. The intruder may have entered the room and encountered her, or she may have heard him in another part of the house, he said.

Further evidence that robbery was the primary motive with murder and criminal assault an afterthought came to light with the discovery that other articles, too, were missing, Fitzgerald said. At first police only noticed the theft of a wrist watch and two rings.

Mrs. Refoule usually removed this jewelry when engaged in housework, police said her French artist husband told them.

Horace Blalock, the slayer of Heinz, confessed after being arrested on a burglary charge. He was tried in DeKalb County, where the slaying occurred, and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Meanwhile, police said they discounted the theory Mrs. Refoule was walking in the woods behind her home when she was killed because an iron was still burning when her nine-year-old son, Jon, returned from school.

Her partially-clothed and ravished body was discovered lying face up in historic Peachtree Creek behind her home.

30h(2)

Dr. Herman Jones, of Oglethorpe University, and Director-elect of Fulton County Crime Laboratory, continued to examine substances found beneath the victim's fingernails and to conduct tests on Mrs. Refoule's clothing. Also under scrutiny was a piece of sash cord found in the house. Fitzgerald is of the opinion that the red welt around Mrs. Refoule's throat was caused by a small cord or handkerchief.

Police continued examining persons in connection with the murder. The search of pawn shops for the missing jewelry also continued.

Meanwhile, residents of the Howell Mill Road section requested and received doubled police protection. They kept the additional police busy with calls concerning strange noises and events around their homes.

Some 2,000 curiosity seekers had trampled around the Refoule property but were not permitted on the land.

Simple funeral services were held for Mrs. Refoule Friday morning at the Cathedral of Christ the King. Mnsgr. Joseph G. Cassidy officiated and burial was in West View Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Markham Berry, Ben Shute, Robert Rogers, Philip Alston, Jr., Robert Alston, Jim Franklin, George Cook and Robert Crumley, Jr.

Woman Exonerates Negro Of Attack

30h(2)

SAVANNAH, Ga. — (S N S) — Mrs. Betty Deloach Byrd, a young white girl, who had previously accused two Negroes of slaying her boy friend, Anthony Elixson while they were parked on a lonely road on August 8 reversed her story here Monday when she testified that two white men had committed the crime and threatened to kill her if she divulged their names.

The young girl named William Perkins and William Parrish as the slayers. Both Perkins and Parrish are being tried for the murder.

The young girl was single at the time of the slaying but since that time married T. B. Byrd.

In her testimony to the court Mrs. Byrd said she and Elixson drove to a road known as "Lovers Lane' and parked when Parrish and Perkins came up, Parrish had a pistol and she stated that she recognized both men although it was dark and foggy. She was ordered to get out of the car, after which she was marched to the rear of the automobile by Perkins and Parrish took Elixson in charge. The girl further testified that she heard Elixson say "don't shoot" which was followed by a gun report. 30h(2)

After Ellison was killed, she voluntarily had relationship with both which held the body of the dead man, testified the young girl.

Tues. 8-6-47

Before leaving the scene both men told the young girl to say that she was attacked by two Negroes who murdered Elixson, said the girl.

'Sex Maniac' Hunted in Atlanta

Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

A 21-year-old Atlanta girl's report of an attempted assault Sunday set city police searching for a "sex maniac."

The girl's description of a "nice-looking, middle-aged" man tallied with that given by an 11-year-old girl of a man who allegedly attempted to attack her Saturday after inviting her into his automobile and driving out of town.

The young woman reported the man was seated in a parked automobile at Washington Street and Ridge Avenue, S. W., when she alighted from a streetcar Saturday at 5 p. m. As she passed, he grabbed her arm, twisted it, and attempted to drag her into the car. She said she broke free. As he showed signs of following, she said, she picked up a brick and hurled it at him. It missed him but broke the windshield of his car and he drove away. 3-31-47

The young woman said she did not report the incident until she read of the attempted attack on the 11-year-old girl.

Man, 21, Charged With Rape Attempt

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Around midnight Thursday, a young lady told Officers I. M. Helton and E. B. Brooks that a man got off the Georgia Avenue bus behind her and later attempted to rape her. Almost twenty-four hours later, she spotted the same man again—they were both on a Georgia Avenue bus. 30h(2)

Tues. 5-13-47

The man listed by Officers J. W. Elliott and S. P .Turner as Gus Burton, 21, of 28 Collier Road and 584 Martin Street, S. E., was arrested on a charge of attempted rape.

The victim of the attempted rape told the officers that when the suspect got off the bus, he trailed her a short distance and grabbed her in front of 670 Ami Street. According to the report, she stopped and asked him if he wanted money. When he informed her that he did not want money, she attempted to hit him, and the suspect in turn smashed her glasses, cutting her under the eye. The suspect fled, when the victim screamed, and was not seen until around 11:30 Friday night, when they got on the same bus again.

Tues. 5-13-47

Charge Assault Of Macon Girl

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Thurs. 7-24-47

MACON, July 23—(AP)—Robert Sanders, white shoe repair shop operator, was under $3,000 bond here Wednesday on a warrant charging criminal assault on an 11-year-old Negro girl. 30h(2)

The warrant was sworn to by the alleged victim.

The girl, who reportedly had been employed at the Sanders home, alleged to City Detectives W. C. Bowden and W. H. Bargeron that the incident occurred early this month in Sanders' downtown shoe shop. Thurs. 7-24-47

Detectives and deputy sheriffs reported they had been investigating the case several weeks.

Young Women Claim Two Soldiers Assaulted Them

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

30h(2)

Thurs. 3-6-47

Two young women, 19 and 20 years of age, told Atlanta and College Park police, Tuesday, that two white soldiers forced them to go to the Post Library, at Fort McPherson for immoral purposes.

Officers H. C. Hammond and Z. P. Akins reported that they answered a call to the Main Gate at Fort McPherson at 12:20 a. m. Tuesday where the College Park officers turned over one of the victims to them. The officers quoted this victim as saying that after being forced to go to the Post Library she got away from one of the soldiers and reported the incident to the College Park officers.

HAD POCKETBOOK

Continuing their investigation, the officers got permisison from the MP and officer of the day to search the library, and in a few minutes found one of the soldiers,—a young staff sergeant. According to the officers, when they entered the room, the soldier picked up a woman's pocketbook from the floor and attempted to hide it. Thurs. 3-6-47

The Atlanta officers went back and asked for permission to continue their search and later found the other young woman, who told them how she had been forcibly assaulted by the soldier.

ON WAY HOME

The officers quoted this victim as saying that she had been working in a cafe across the railroad track from the military post, and indicated that her employer had frequently arranged dates for colored and white girls and soldiers, for which he was paid. She stated that she and her companion were on their way home when approached by the soldiers. Thurs. 3-6-47

According to the report, the soldier was turned over to military authorities, and The Atlanta WORLD learned Wednesday that the young women were being detained by Atlanta police for investigation.

Intruder Attacks Woman in Bed Beside Mother

Atlanta Constitution

30h(2)

Atlanta, Ga.

Sun. 7/13/47

A knife-wielding white man forced entrance into a Southwest Atlanta home and criminally assaulted a 29-year-old white woman on a bed beside her 75-year-old mother Saturday night, Atlanta police reported.

The victim and her mother, of Montreat Avenue, S. W., each had a small cut on the neck where the man had pressed a knife against their throats, according to Radio Patrolmen J. J, Morris and W. E. Harwell.

The younger woman told police she awakened as the man stood over her. He placed the knife against her throat and threatened to kill the mother when the latter awakened, Morris and Harwell reported. Sun. 7/13/47

The attacker left by door on renewing his death threat, the victim told police. The women reported the attack after the older woman's husband, returned an hour later, according to police.

The victim was taken to Grady Hospital for treatment.

'I Am Not Guilty In Any Way' The Columbia Record.

Minister, Held, Denies Assault Charge

Columbia, S.C. Wed-8-13-47

30A(2)

MOULTRIE, Ga., Aug. 13—(UP)—The Rev. J. C. Embree, a Baptist minister denied from his jail cell today that he tried to assault a 12 year old girl member of his choir who was interested in a missionary career.

"I am not guilty in any way," Embree said. "I took a girl in my car to talk missionary work and the only time I touched her was when I examined an unusual ring on one of her fingers."

Embree was arrested on a warrant sworn out by the girl's parents. The charge was attempted criminal assault.

"I made no advance suggesting sex or did anything to harm the girl in any way," Embree said. "We even discussed talking to her mother about the proposed missionary work."

The clergyman, father of three children, is pastor of the Doerun Baptist church in southwest Georgia. Wed. 8-13-47

Embree was removed to the city jail here after Colquitt county sheriff T. V. Beard reported that a crowd of about 25 white men had assembled outside the Doreun jail.

The sheriff said that the men were "right excited" but no effort was made to harm the pastor.

Mayor J. W. Toney praised the authorities for getting Embree out of town before "high feeling" crystalized.

The girl's parents said that she went to see the 33 year old preacher Monday at his study to talk to him about misionary work. The girl told her parents that Embree suggested that the conversation be continued at an out-of-the-way spot on the edge of town.

She met him there, the parents said, and Embree drove her deeper into the woods and attempted to assault her. When she successfully resisted him, the girl told her parents, the preacher drove her back to the edge of town and put her out of the automobile.

Sheriff Beard identified the clergyman as the Rev. J. C. Embree, the pastor of the white Baptist church here. He said a warrant charging "attempted rape" was sworn out by the girl's father.

GEORGIA PASTOR JAILED

Times New York, N.Y.

Accused of Attempted Rape of Girl, 12—Moved for Safety

DOERUN, Ga., Aug. 12 (AP)—A Baptist clergyman charged with attempting to rape a 12-year-old girl was taken from the city jail here last night to the Colquitt County seat at Moultrie, when a group of men gathered at the building. Wed. 8-13-47

Colquitt County Sheriff T. V. Beard said about twenty-five men were in the group outside the Doerun jail and they were "right excited." The crowd made no attempt to storm the jail or to harm the clergyman as he was taken from the jail building by the Sheriff's son. 8-13-47

Girl Foils Attacker, Solves Taxi Hold-Up

Post. Atlanta Ga. The Atlanta Constitution

A cool-headed Atlanta girl Sunday tricked a youth who threatened her with criminal assault, and brought about his capture and the quick solution to an earlier taxicab holdup in which another girl was wounded, Fulton County police reported. Mon. 6

Confronted by the man menacing her with a gun early Sunday, Eldora Saylor, 19, of 708 Berkley Ave., N. W., feigned compliance, then grabbed the gun and screamed until help came, Fulton Police Lt. Cal Cates related.

Miss Saylor told Cates the man, identified by police as Jess Barnett, 20, 230 Alexander St., N. W., threatened her with criminal assault. She told him to "come along" down the street. He complied. When they came in front of her residence, where she lived with her brother-in-law, Miss Saylor grabbed at the gun and screamed.

The assailant snatched back the gun and ran as Miss Saylor's brother-in-law, Bubin Himbree, ran out of the house with a gun.

Himbree and Miss Saylor entered Himbree's automobile to chase the gunman. Four blocks from their residence, a youth attempted to flag a ride with them.

"That's him," cried Miss Saylor.

Himbree leaped from the car, gun in hand. He told Cates the youth fired twice at him and he fired twice, none of the shots taking effect. Then he fought the youth with fists.

Aroused by the shots, people rushed to the scene from surrounding houses, and the gunman ran.

Fulton police came with bloodhounds and found the man they identified as Barnett hiding in high grass a short distance from the fight scene.

Barnett was taken to Grady Hospital for check-up of bruises received in his [illegible] with Himbree.

As he entered the emergency room, according to Cates, again there came the cry:

"That's him."

This time it came from Miss Marion Pennell, 17, of 129 Rawson St., S. W., and Miss Evelyn Kersey, 20, of 337 Fourth St., N. W.

Miss Pennell was receiving treatment for a wound received at midnight Saturday when a man held up a taxicab in which she was riding. Miss Kersey also was a passenger in the Yellow Cab, which was driven by Jay Henderson when the holdup occurred on Fourteenth Street, N. W., according to City Police reports. 30A(2)

Miss Pennell was shot in the right toe when the holdup man's gun discharged as he rummaged through the young women's purses after relieving the cab driver of between $15 and $20, she told police. The holdup man had hailed the cab, and pulled the gun after entering the front seat. He fled afterward. Mon. 6-30-47

Lt. Cates said Barnett admitted the holdup of the cab, and said the shot was accidental.

Cates said Barnett is booked on eight charges, and held in Fulton Tower in lieu of bonds totaling $14,000.

The charges, according to Cates, are: armed robbery; assault, with intent to murder; attempted criminal assault; assault and battery; shooting another; pointing a pistol at another, and carrying concealed weapons.

Atlanta Girl, 17, Beaten, Assaulted By Two Men

Atlanta, Ga. Sun. 8-10-47 Atlanta, Ga.

A 17-year-old Atlanta girl told police Saturday she was criminally assaulted by two men who forced her to enter their car. Atlanta Const.

Displaying bruises she said she received when the two men beat her Friday night in forcing her to submit, the girl was placed under a physician's care at her South Side home. 30A(2)

She was waiting for her mother to come out of a theater on Memorial Drive, near Boulevard, when the two men forced her into the car, the girl related. Sun. 8-10-47

She said she was driven to a spot near the Federal Penitentiary, where the beating and assaults by both men took place.

Identity of one of the men is known, police reported.

Doerun, Quiet, Awaits Due Process of Law

Atlanta Ga. The Atlanta Constitution. 30A(2)

Constitution State News Service.

DOERUN, Aug. 13—This small South Georgia town settled down to its normal life again Wednesday, apparently contented to let the case of a 12-year-old choir singer versus Doerun's Baptist preacher be handled through the due processes of law. Thurs. 8.

"Things have quieted down here," said Mayor T. W. Toney. "The citizens want the case adjudged through the courts."

Toney predicted that no immediate action against the Rev. J. C. Embrey would be taken by the Baptist Board of Deacons until the courts had acted.

Meanwhile, the 38-year-old minister remained in the Colquitt County jail at Moultrie as his father rushed from Roanoke, Ala., to seek his release by making a $2,000 bond. Thurs. 8-14-47

The clergyman, married and the father of three children, has received few visitors in his cell since Monday night when he was whisked away from Doerun in the face of mounting civic tension here over the girl's story of an attempted assault during a discussion of a missionary career for her. 30A(2)

The minister continued to deny that he made any advances on the girl as they sat in a secluded spot near here.

His wife, who was encouraged to remain in Doerun by sympathetic citizens, has said she planned to obtain a divorce from Embrey, Mayor Toney said. She has been under a physician's care since Monday when officers came to their home to arrest her husband. Thurs. 8-14-47

Toney fixed Embrey's bond at $2,000, acting in his capacity as Justice of Peace.

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4 Youths Jailed On Assault Charge

Atlanta, Ga. 30A(2) Tues. 7-1-47

MACON, June 30—(AP)—Four Meriwether County youth ranging from 21 to 22 years of age were lodged in the Bibb County Jail Sunday night in connection with the alleged criminal assault on two Bibb Count girls last Friday night. The arrests were made by the Sheriff of Meriwether County, Sheriff Julian Peacock said.

At the Bibb jail they were booked as Willie Jamescoe, William Gordon Coe and Lawrence Coe, Jr., of Woodbury, and Malcolm Perry Smith, Jr., of Manchester. Atlanta Constitution

Sheriff Peacock said the alleged assault occurred on a lonely road a few miles from Macon. The victims were described as 14 and 16 years old. Tues. 7-1-47

Sheriff Peacock said all four of the men were charged with criminal assault — a capital crime in Georgia — and were being held without bond pending Grand Jury action next month.

If indicted, the Sheriff said, the men will go to trial at the September term of Bibb Superior Court. Tue. 7-1-47

Assault Suspect Wounds Officer

Thurs. 8-7-47 Atlanta Constitution

SAVANNAH Beach, Ga., Aug. 6—(AP)—Police at this Atlantic Coastal resort continued their quest Wednesday for a dark-complexioned white man who is believed to have been wounded after an alleged attempted assault of an eight-year-old girl. 30A(2)

Police Chief Robert A. Stewart said the suspect wounded Police Officer David A. McCutcheon in an exchange of gunfire Tuesday night as a posse of about 100 officers and armed citizens searched the beach area. 8-7-47

McCutcheon, badly wounded, fired fro mthe ground at the suspect, who fell, Chief Stewart related, but immediately regained his feet and ran. Atlanta, Ga.

According to an account given the police chief by the young girl, the attack occurred about 9 p. m. Tuesday on a dark street near the main boardwalk. The man was described as well dressed. The girl screamed and the attacker fled.

Macon Man Held Under Bond In Assault Charge

30A(2) Fri. 7/25/47

MACON, Ga.— (SNS)—Charged with criminally assaulting an 11-year-old Negro girl, Robert Sanders, white shoe repair operator, was placed under a $3,000 bond here Wednesday. Atlanta Daily World Atlanta Ga. Fri. 7-25-47

Warrant for Sanders' arrest was sworn out by the young girl who reported to city detectives W. C. Bowden and W. H. Bargeron that the accused had ravished her the earlier part of the month in his downtown shoe shop. The victim was said to have been employed at the Sanders home. The case had reportedly been under investigation for several weeks.

Girl Alleges Bribe Offer To Drop Ravish Charge

The News Birmingham, Ala.

MACON, Ga., Sept. 11—(AP)—Testimony that a master sergeant attempted to bribe 20-year-old Emmie Odum Bowen to drop rape charges against Army Capt. Herbert C. Hebb was introduced yesterday in Superior Court by Solicitor Gen. W. M. West. 30A(2)

The court is trying Hebb, 38-year-old former Washington, D. C., policeman, on charges of raping Miss Bowen, former employe of an officers club. Thurs 9-11-47

The girl's mother told the court that April 14, M-Sgt. William Findley, of Robins Field, suggested that her daughter accept "three or four thousand dollars" and leave town until the affair "had blown over."

The girl and her brother testified the suggestion was made in their presence.

Sgt. Findley denied the suggestion of bribery. He said he had been concerned with the girl's reputation.

7654

Collegiate Is Accused Of Assault

Atlanta, Ga.

30h(2)

Mon 7-28-47

Atlanta Constitution

City police are holding a 27-year-old Emory student on a charge of criminal assault following statements made by an 18-year-old store clerk from West End..

The young girl Saturday identified W. G. Lamb, 28 Collier Rd., N. E., an arts and science student at Emory University, as the man who forced her to submit to his will and then made her sign a note saying she had done so voluntarily, police here reported.

Detectives B. G. Holland and R. C. Pendley said they had found two rotes in Lamb's possession after his arrest by Fulton County police Friday night.'

One read: "In consideration of this sum of $1, payment acknowledged hereby as received, I have voluntarily engaged in sexual intercourse with Williams Reynolds in his car."

Police said the text coincided with the text of the note the girl said she had been forced to sign. Police also are holding a $1 bill which the girl alleged was given her by Lamb, the man she identified as Reynolds.

The other note read: "Please excuse my boldness. May I take the liberty of introducing myself. I am Bill Reynolds, a GI student at Emory University from New Orleans." Mon-7-28-47

Detectives Holland and Pendley said they were investigating to see if this note tied in with reports that young women were being approached by a young man in downtown Atlanta who would squeeze a note wrapped in a bill in their hands, suggesting they call him.

Reynolds, who is married and the father of one child, is alleged to have approached the girl in his car Thursday afternoon, asking for directions to a theater on Gordon Street, the Detectives said.

After giving him directions, she told police Lamb returned a few moments later, saying he had lost his way and asking her to get in his car and direct him, police reported. Mon. 7-28-47

Once in his car, she said she was threatened with death if she screamed. He then drove through College Park and East Point to Palmetto where he assaulted her, she said.

Lamb will be taken to Fulton Tiwer pending determination of where the alleged felony took place.

Alleged Rape On Girl Goes Unnoticed

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Va.

Sat. 7-26-47

MACON, Ga. — (ANP)—Nothing happens to the white man who rapes a Negro child here.

An 11-year-old Negro girl charges she was raped here nearly a month ago by a prominent white business man, but the white man is still free. Police have failed to apprehend Robert Sanders, owner of the Bob Sanders Shoe Shop, for the alleged attack on little Bertha James, a fifth grade student of the Carver Elementary School, No. 3, although the accused man is still here.

Mr. Sanders met Bertha through her mother, who worked for the Sanders family, and who agreed to let the child stay with the Sanders' children when Mrs. Sanders visited Savannah. When Mrs. Sanders returned, she planned another trip to Jacksonville, Fla., and asked Mrs. Willie Mae James, Bertha's mother, to let her little girl stay with the children again.

FATHER REFUSED

Bertha's father, Coleman James, refused and demanded that his daughter be sent home immediately. The white family sent Bertha home but kept her clothing. Mr. Sanders promised to bring them the following evening, but came by in his car and told the child she could pick it up at his store.

Mr. James told Sanders the child was busy, but the white man insisted he would bring her back home immediately. The father consented. After a period of waiting, he became worried about his daughter and told his wife to go to the Sanders' store to see about her. Mrs. James went to the store only to find the girl locked in a room with the white man.

CALLS HUSBAND

She called her husband, who told her to call the police. Mrs. James was denied the right to use the drug store telephone again. By the time she returned to Sanders' store, she says she saw the white man leaving by the front door and her 11-year-old daughter leaving by the back door.

The mother accompanied her daughter home and the father began quizzing the child about what happened. Bertha told everything. She was rushed to a hospital for examination. Doctors found she had been raped and torn. Police officers were notified and a lawyer promised to take the case.

Not only is Mr. Sanders still free, the lawyer has not pushed the case, according to police and court records here.

MOTHER HAS ROLE, TOO

Father Strikes Suspect In Child Assault Case

Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

30h(2)

Ga.

Thurs. 9-11-47

Two angry parents momentarily took the law into their own hands in City Recorder's Court Tuesday, attacking a 39-year-old private dtective accused of molesting their minor-aged daughter.

The battle followed a hearing by Recorder A. W. Callaway in which O. W. Lunsford, of 823 Ponce de Leon Ave., N. E., was bound over on $2,000 bond on charges of attempted criminal assault.

The mother testified that Lunsford, a neighbor, allegedly lured her daughter into his basement Sunday with a promise of fixing the little girl's wagon.

There, the anguished mother alleged, Lunsford molested the girl. Testimony from Grady Hospital authorities was presented in support of the mother's charges.

The fight developed as City Detectives J. M. Pack and J. W. Ellington were leading Lunsford away to Fulton County authorities. Thurs. 9-11-47

The girl's father, a husky lumber yard worker, broke from the courtroom crowd, took a swing at Lunsford which missed, then another which connected, knocking Lunsford flat on the courtroom floor. Thurs. 9-11-47

The child's mother also intervened, swinging on several of the women who accompanied Lunsford to court. Order was restored by police before anyone had suffered serious physical injury. No charge was placed against the mother and father.

Arrest White Youth In Rape Of Girl, 14

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill.

30h(2)

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Fred Brannon, 16-year-old white youth of Mecklenburg, N. C., was arrested here early last week on charges of criminal assault on a 14-year-old girl two weeks ago in a woods near his home. Sat. 8-23-47

He is charged with attacking the girl after following her from a country store and dragging her into the woods. According to police officials, Brannon waived extradition and is being returned to Mecklenburg to face charges.

Georgians Do Nothing to Rich Businessman Who Assaults Girl, 11

30h(2)

MACON, Ga. — Robert Sanders, prominent white shoe shop owner, has not been arrested, although it is nearly a month since an 11-year-old fifth grade pupil at Carver Elementary School No. 3 charged that he criminally assaulted her in his store.

According to her mother, Mrs. Willie M. James, employed by the Sanders family, she found her daughter and Sanders locked in the store. On returning from summoning the police, Sanders left by the front door. Doctors say the girl was forcibly assaulted.

Torn Clothes Evidence In Assault Trial

30h(2)

Columbia Record

Columbia, S.C.

MACON, Ga., Sept. 10.—(UP)—A pretty stenographer's torn underclothes were introduced as evidence today in the rape trial of Air Forces Capt. Herbert C. Hebb, a former Washington, D. C., policeman.

State attorneys produced ripped stockings and underwear belonging to Hebb's alleged victim as the silver-haired captain sat in court with his wife at his side.

The embarrassed girl, whose name cannot be revealed under Georgia law told a Bibb superior court jury in an almost inaudible voice that she fiercely tried to resist Hebb's advances in his automobile on the night of April 3. Wed. 9-10-47

The courtroom had been cleared of spectators before the girl was permitted to testify. She said that Hebb grabbed her by the throat and forced her head into the corner of the seat after striking her.

She said that Hebb, after parking his automobile on a side road became violently passionate, attacked her on the front seat, and then tossed her into the back seat where he completed a criminal assault.

The girl was employed at the

Warner Robins Army Air Bas where Hebb was stationed.

Dr. Leo J. Blum, Warner Robins physician, testified that the girl came to his office after the alleged attack and displayed bruises and other injuries on her body. He said that in his opinion the girl had been virginal prior to the time of the alleged attack.

In a statement purportedly taken from Hebb after army officials investigated the case, Assistant Solicitor William M. West read Hebb's alleged admission that he made unsuccessful advances to the girl.

The statement said that Hebb kissed the girl's hand and apologized. Wed 9-10-47

Defense counsel said they would attempt to prove that the girl once spent 10 days in Greensboro, N. C., with an army lieutenant. During cross examination the girl denied this, testifying that she had gone there to visit a young army lieutenant to whom she was engaged and who was being sent overseas.

The girl testified that she had lived in a private rooming house with two other girls at the time.

Girl, 5, Survives Brutal Attack Here

30h(2)

Ga.

After being kidnaped, apparently criminally assaulted and left in the woods to die, a five-year-old Atlanta girl Thursday was alive in Grady Hospital as the result of her indomitable courage police reported.

The blonde and blue-eyed girl, daughter of an Atlanta police officer, and a kindergarten student at the Ed. S. Cook School, was admitted to the hospital for treatment of severe lacerations, shock and other possible injuries as a result of her ordeal.

Meanwhile, Atlanta, Fulton and DeKalb County police launched an intensive search for a "brown-haired man driving a new car," who is believed to be the child's assailant. 10-18-47-Sat.

Police were hampered by the meager description the tot was able to give them. However, a plaster cast of a tire track found at the scene led investigators to concentrate their search for a "heavy type car." Late Thursday, police had only a few shreds of evidence to guide them.

According to police, the child, said by friends to be unusually attractive and bright, "unquestionably saved her life" by trudging more than a half-mile throu dense woods in a heavy down of rain to reach aid at the of Dr. N. B. Bateman, on Maynor Lake in Nort County. Constitution

Dr. Bateman im shalled help fr area and fo all road in

was badly lacerated, and her blood-stained and rain-soaked clothing almost was torn from her body. Constitution

ospital attaches and the child showed no [illegible] of emotional stress until she was told she could not attend school for a few days. At this point, they said, she began sobbing for the first time.

Atlanta Dets. S. C. Dillingham and R. M. Skinner, assisted the investigation, said that ever to

clothing would be turned over to Dr. Herman Jones, [illegible] ty Toxicologist, for [illegible].

'Friendly Man' Abducts, Assaults 5-Year-Old

News 10-17-47

30h(2)

Fri. Birmingham, Ala.

ATLANTA, Oct. 17—(AP)—The "friendly" man who abducted the 5-year-old daughter of a city policeman as she left kindergarten and brutally assaulted her in a desolate woods was the object of an intense hunt today.

Whether the child was actually raped has not been determined. Attendants at Grady Hospital, where she is recuperating, said that it was certain that a vicious sexual assault had been made. 10-17-47 Fri.

Asst. Fulton County Police Chief E. G. Fitzgerald said the blond child told her father and other policemen that a friendly brown-haired man in a new car offered to give her a ride home. It was raining, the child related, and she accepted the offer. Ga.,

Fitzgerald said the man drove the child to a lonely spot on a dirt road in the north section of Fulton (Atlanta) County. There he roughly handled her and then shoved her from the car.

The child made her way a half-mile to the home of a doctor.

Hospital attendants said the child was badly lacerated and that her clothes had almost been torn from her. Birmingham, Ala.

30h(2) 1947

Illinois

7655

GI Admits Slaying Blonde; Her Body Found in Alley

30h(2)

Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

RANTOUL, Ill., May 15—(UP) The semi-nude body of a 21-year-old blonde beauty operator was found in an alley here Wednesday and less than six hours later a teen-age soldier confessed to Army authorities that he had killed her during a "quarrel."

The victim was Edna Lucille Kietzman. Her confessed slayer was Pvt. Socorro Villagran, 17, San Pedro, Cal., assigned to Chanute Field near here.

Miss Kietzman's body was found behind a garage in the alley early Wednesday by John Scheirich, Rantoul High School janitor. The Coroner said examination indicated she had been criminally assaulted. 5-16-47

Army Lt. A. J. Lynn said Villagran was seized when he returned to the Army post and military policemen noticed that he had blood on his uniform.

Villagran confessed after authorities tripped him up on an alibi.

Rape Attempt Charged To Former Offender

Chi. Sun Chicago, Ill.

Elmer C. Larson, 31, of 2510 N. 74th av., Elmwood Park, was charged yesterday with the attempted rape Monday of a 12-year-old girl living on the Northwest Side of Chicago. Wed. 5-21-47

Cragin police took Larson to the state's attorney's office and to the sex bureau for questioning. He denied the charge. Police said he had served a 11-year prison term for a similar offense. He will appear in Felony Court Friday.

Boy, 15, Admits Stabbing Wife Of Minister

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

30h(2) Ill.

Robbed and Slashed A Young Mother, Too

10-2-47

Louisville, Ky.

Chicago, Oct. 1 (AP) — Police Capt. Patrick Collins tonight announced that a 15-year-old boy had told him he fatally stabbed Mrs. Gracelyn Bush, 32, wife of a minister, last Wednesday in a South Side parking lot. Thur.

Collins declared the youth also had said he robbed and slashed a young South Side mother last night in her apartment, 12 blocks from the scene of the Bush slaying. 10-2-47

The police captain added that the boy, James Hartman, was seized tonight with a long-bladed knife in his possession.

Forearm Slashed.

Mrs. Bush was found on the bloody cement of the parking lot. She had just returned to her automobile from a shopping tour. Witnesses reported hearing her scream and said they saw a young man wearing a khaki Army jacket flee from the area.

Her husband was the Rev. Francis F. Bush, pastor of a Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Last night Mrs. Mary Clausen, 25-year-old mother of two small children, reported to police that a "moon-faced, squinty-eyed" youth invaded her basement apartment and tried to attack her. She said that when she resisted, the intruder slashed her forearm with a long-bladed knife and fled with a dollar from her purse.

Collins said Hartman told him he had attacked Mrs. Clausen. He had been seized for questioning about burglaries in the area.

Arrested Once Before.

10-2-47

Hartman was arrested a year ago in the act of rifling an apartment, Collins said, adding that he was sent to a reform school, but later was placed on probation. 10-2-47

He was arrested at his home by Detective Leo Crotty, who told the boy's father, Leroy Hartman, a bartender, that he wanted to take the boy over to be viewed by Mrs. Clausen.

Crotty said that as young Hartman and his father went to put on their wraps, the boy said, "I won't be back, father, I'm the one they're looking for."

"I guess that's that," Crotty quoted the boy's father.

Girl Charges Rape Behind Drive-In Theater

Courier-Journal

30h(2) Ky.

Raymond Kaiser, 24, of 156 Wiltshire, was arrested yesterday on assault and battery and rape warrants sworn to by a 22-year-old girl. County police said the girl told them she was out with Kaiser Monday night and they drove to a site on Dixie Highway where Kaiser was employed on construction work on a new drive-in theater. She said he parked behind the theater and beat and attacked her. Wed. 10-1-47 Louisville, Ky.

Man Gets 10 Years For Assaulting Girl, 6

30h(2) The Courier-Journal

Thur.

Irvine, Ky., Sept. 25 (AP) — Gardner Muncie, 40-year-old Irvine laborer, was convicted in Estill Circuit Court today of a criminal assault on a 6-year-old girl and was sentenced to serve 10 years in prison. Witnesses testified Muncie attacked the girl while her mother was away from home. 9-26-47 Louisville, Ky. The Courier-Journal

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White, Held In Assault On Child, Freed

30h(2) Pa.

Chicago Defender Ill. Sat.

PHILADELPHIA — Charges of criminal assault, made by an 11-year-old pupil of the Dunbar school here, against the white janitor, William Nolan, 52, were dropped last week when Magistrate Joseph H. Rainey gave it as his opinion that the child's testimony was "conflicting."

The boy, Gus Coleman, an orphan living with a foster mother, Mrs. Rebecca Young, had charged that two men "kidnapped" him, threw him into a wagon and took him to a stable near 5th and Reno. There, he alleged, he was forced to participate in a series of revolting acts.

Taken Into Custody

He named Nolan as one of the two men, and the janitor was arrested.

At a hearing held last week Clarence R. Whyte, principal at the school, and Malcolm Poindexter, his assistant, said that Nolan could not have been guilty because he was in the school building at the time the boy said the assaults took place. 5-3-47

The boy showed scratches and scars in court. The magistrate decided to continue the case until last Friday at which time an assistant district attorney was to have been present to push an investigation if necessary. Sat.

The hearing was changed to Thursday at the request of Dunbar school authorities, it was stated.

Nolan has been employed by the Board of Education for 21 years, it was disclosed.

Mother Kills Her Sex-Crazed Son

30h(2)

Aurora, Ill., Nov. 17 (AP)—A sex-crazed talented musician was shot to death today by his mother because, she said, she feared he would try to force upon some other woman the improper advances he made upon her.

Growing hysterical by the tragedy that struck her home while her elderly mother slept, Mrs. Velma Reid, 50, an accountant, was held in jail in Geneva without charge. An inquest was arranged for Wednesday. 11-18-47

Police Capt. Anthony Wegmann said the widow had made three statements giving this account of the killing. Courier-Journal

Her son, Louis, 28, showed unusual musical talent as a boy and was considered a prodigy of the piano by his teachers. As he grew to manhood he became victim to strong physical urges that prompted his commitment to Elgin State Hospital in 1939 as a sufferer of dementia praecox.

Most of the intervening years Louis spent in mental institutions. Yesterday Mrs. Reid went to Chicago State Hospital and obtained his release so that he could be home with her and her mother, Mrs. Sally Nedlow, 79, for Thanksgiving. Louisville, Ky.

During the night the son stole into his mother's bedroom. Aghast at his proposals, she arose and tried to quiet him. They quarreled. Finally he announced he was "going downtown to find someone else." Tues. 11-18-47

The mother seized a revolver and ran after him, firing. She emptied the pistol at him, two of the five shots going wild. He turned toward her, calling, "Mother, Mother!" Tues.

She reloaded the chamber and fired twice more into his chest. He fell dead.

30h(2) 1947

Indiana

7656

Killed Husband to Stop Sister's Rape, Wife Says

The Courier-Journal

30h(2) 2nd

Louisville, Ky.

Indianapolis, March 1 (UP)—A 20-year-old housewife, charged with hacking her drunken husband to death with a hatchet to prevent him from raping her little sister, was released tonight on $500 bond so she could care for her infant daughter.

Sun. 3-2-47

Municipal Court Judge Joseph M. Howard set bond after police pleaded that the 13-month-old child needed a mother's care. Hearing was set for March 5.

Mrs. Marion Edison told police she struck her husband, James, 37, "many times" with the hatchet, while their child slept near by.

She said Eidson had attacked her 15-year-old sister, Frances once before, but that she was keeping it "secret" until she could file suit for divorce.

Pale and dazed, the young mother told police her husband, a City Park Department employee, came home last night intoxicated and continued to drink during the evening.

"He threatened me with a knife and then his fists," she said. "He asked for whisky and my sister got it for him. Then he tried to attack my sister in front of me.

Mrs. Eidson struggled with her sister and then threatened her with a butcher knife.

Hit Him Many Times.

"I ran into the next room, got the hatchet, and hit him with the hammer head of it," she said. "I remember hitting him many times. I might have hit him with the sharp end of the hatchet.

"Then my sister grabbed the hatchet from me and threw it somewhere."

Police were summoned to the Eidson home by neighbors. They found Eidson's slashed body sprawled on the blood-spattered floor of the couple's apartment.

30h(2) 1947

Kansas

7657

TEEN-AGE GIRLS TESTIFY IN RAPE CASE HERE

The Plaindealer

Kansas City, Kansas

30h(2) Kansas

Spectators crowded in the court room Tuesday morning, February 25, to hear the testimony of four girls, ages 11 to 13, against Leo R. Kerby, white, who was arrested last May 15, on statutory rape charges, on the complaint of the parents of the girls. The case is being tried before a jury of seven men and five, women in Judge Willard M. Benton's Division of the Wyandotte County District Court, with Harry Heywood, attorney for the defense.

Relating how Kerby had threatened them with a knife after alledgely committing rape over a period of time were: three teenage girls. Fri. 2-28-47

Slapped Because of Resistance

In their testimony they made it clear that Kerby had given them fruit and money for the many trips made to his home beginning the latter part of September, 1945 to late February, 1946, and that on each trip he went to bed with all four. In questioning one of the girls it was brought out that Kerby had slapped one of them because of her reluctance to accompany him to the bedroom. After a time however, they were allowed to witness the act against each other.

Medical Report

Dr. W. M. Blount who examined the girls on May 18, 1946, described to the jury his findings after completing his examinations which showed that all four girls suffered ill effects from their experience. Fri. 2-28-47

Smiles As Picture Is Displayed

Police Officers Emerson Shannon and Boston Daniels, who made the arrest on May 15th, told how they surprised Kerby when entering his quarters that afternoon, finding him nude with the children there before him. Pictures taken of him, at the time, were introduced by Atty. Elmer Jackson, attorney for the girls as states evidence. As Kerby leaned forward to glance at the picture, over the shoulder of his attorney, a thin smile appeared on his face. The picture of him in the nude, was not shown at that time.

Pleads Not Guilty

Wednesday morning Kerby took the stand in his own behalf. At no time, during his testimony, did he admit letting the girls enter his home. He admitted however that they made frequent trips to his home to cut grass. He also admitted that he gave money to them to buy ice-cream. In the cross-examination, he could not give a clear reason why he did not make the children go home after admitting that they had become annoying to him.

The girls were too young to know what they were doing. It was brought out in the state's testimony, that one girl told her young friends about her 'Uncle' on 7th Street who would give them money if they would go there with her. Two of the girls stated that they made several trips there before giving in to Kerby who took advangtage of them inspite of kicks and struggles.

Mrs. Kerby and several other persons testified in behalf of Kerby's characer. The case is expected to reach the jury sometime today.

30h(2) 1947 Kentucky

7658

Soldier Held In Rape of G.I.'s Wife At Hotel

Courier Journal

Jue. 2-4-47

30h(2) Ky.

Room of Woman, 19, Entered By Window

Louisville, Ky.

Vernon Cullen, 32, a soldier at Fort Knox, was held to the grand jury under $2,000 bond in Police Court yesterday on a charge of raping a 19-year-old Nashville girl at the Enterprise Hotel, 230 E. Market, late Sunday night.

Police testified a man had gained entrance to the girl's room through a second-floor window by walking across an adjoining shed. Footprints led them to the room of the soldier three doors distant.

Husband At Fort Knox.

The girl told Judge Pro Tem Guy C. Shearer she had arrived in Louisville at 5 p.m. Sunday to visit her husband, also a Fort Knox soldier. She said her husband left the room at approximately 10 p.m.

"I went to sleep, and the next thing I knew a man told me to keep quiet or he would kill me. He seemed to have been drinking," she said.

The girl identified Cullen at Police Headquarters yesterday morning. He did not testify during the hearing.

Carpenter Held On Rape Charge At Newport

30h(2)

Courier Journal

Newport, Ky., Feb. 4 (AP)—The Campbell County grand jury has been given the case of Thomas E. Keene, 26, Cincinnati carpenter, who is charged with raping a 19-year-old mother, of Cold Spring, Ky. Louisville, Ky.

Keene waived examination at arraignment today and was bound over to the grand jury, which is now in session, under $5,000 bond. He also was held to the jury on a charge of carrying concealed weapons. Wed-2-5-47

The young monther identified Keene yesterday as the man who abducted her last Wednesday when she alighted from a Cold Spring bus and then attacked her. He had been arrested on a charge of assault preferred by another woman.

Rape In Montgomery Causes Wide Search

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky. Sat. 6-21-47

Mount Sterling, Ky., June 20 (AP)—Deputy Sheriff James Turley said today a search had been expanded for an unidentified man sought in connection with the rape of a 21-year-old Montgomery County girl Tuesday night.

30h(2)

Turley said the girl told officers she was dragged into a car by a man who told her his name was Gilvin.

She said the man pulled her from the car several miles from town, beat her, tore off most of her clothes and raped her. She said she escaped and hid in a haystack until daylight. Sat. 6-21-47

Gallatin Youth Gets Life In Rape Of Woman, 65

Louisville Ky.

Wed. 7-2-47

30h(2) Courier-Journal

Warsaw, Ky., July 1 (AP)—Judge Ward Yeager of Gallatin Circuit Court today sentenced Howard Franklin House, 19, to life imprisonment after the youth entered a plea of guilty to a charge of raping Mrs. Tulie Morgan, 65-year-old newspaper carrier.

Raymond Vincent, Commonwealth attorney, said the prosecution would have demanded the death penalty had the youth gone on trial. Wed 7-2-47

House was accused, the Commonwealth attorney said, of inducing the elderly woman, who delivered a Cincinnati newspaper here, to enter his car, then driving to a deserted farmhouse, where he struck her with a piece of pipe, attacked her, and drove away.

Man Held In Rape Case

Courier-Journal

30h(2)

Special to The Courier-Journal.

Tues. 9-2-47

Bowling Green, Ky., Sept. 1.—David Walker, 18, Bowling Green, was arrested at his home here yesterday on a charge of rape and committed to Warren County Jail pending hearing at 9 a.m. tomorrow before Judge G. D. Milliken, Sr. Louisville, Ky. Tues. 9-2-47

Rape Suspect Is Granted New Trial

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

30h(2) Ky.

A new trial was granted Ira Lee Welch, 19, on a rape charge when the court decided yesterday it should have permitted the jury to hear how police obtained a statement from him.

The ruling by Criminal Court Judge Loraine Mix will be taken to the Court of Appeals by the Commonwealth's attorney. The prosecutor usually does not appeal decisions against him.

Jury Not Present.

Wed. 10-22-47

At the trial which resulted in a life sentence for Welch, Judge Mix allowed statements to police by Welch and three others to be admitted as evidence after a conference when the jury was not present. He decided at that time that statements from Welch and the three other youths still awaiting trial in the case were not obtained by "sweating" them. In ruling yesterday that he had made a mistake, he said Welch's lawyer, Brent Overstreet, convinced him the jury should have been told the details of the questioning.

Welch, of 103 Reid, Camp Taylor, is the oldest of the defendants who are accused of raping a 17-year-old girl seven times last summer. Carl Ousley, assistant Commonwealth's attorney, said none of the others would be tried until the Court of Appeals rules on the new trial for Welch.

Life Imprisonment Demanded For Accused Rapist, 19

Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

Tues. 9-30-47

Life imprisonment was demanded yesterday for a 19-year-old Louisville boy accused along with three other teen-agers of the rape of a 17-year-old girl here last July.

30h(2) Ky.

The Criminal Court trial of the youth, Ira Lee Welch, 103 Reid, got under way yesterday but, because of a delayed start and a lengthy legal argument, was adjourned after only one witness had testified.

Indicted In July. 9-30-47

Welch and two of his companions, John Rice, 17, of 3802 Fincastle, and George D. Metcalf, Jr., 18, of 2706 Pindell, were indicted late in July on charges they each raped the girl twice the night of July 10. The fourth youth, Raymond Murray, 16, Poplar Level Road, was charged with having raped her once. In addition, each was named as aiding and abetting the others, making the number of charges against each seven.

Most of the morning session of the court was consumed in selecting a jury. As each of the prospective jurors was called, he was asked by Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Carl Ousley whether he would object to giving a convicted rapist life imprisonment without benefit of parole. A jury of 12 men finally was selected on this basis.

The Commonwealth's opening statement was delivered by Frank Cahill, Jr., who related the story told by the girl, a visitor at her aunt's home while seeking to enter nurses' training here. According to Cahill, who is assisting the Commonwealth in the case, Welch left the Fincastle Recreation Center with the girl in an automobile. The other three youths then joined them and they drove to a remote spot in Jefferson County. Cahill said the girl broke away once, but was dragged back to the car.

The aunt told from the stand how the girl returned to her home early in the morning, ill and dazed. She said doctors were called and the girl's parents notified. 9-30-47

After cross-examination by Welch's attorney, Brent Overstreet, Judge Loraine Mix adjourned the trial until 9 a.m. today. Tue.

Welch's companions will be tried later.

Youth Charged In Rape Of 13-Year-Old Girl

Louisville, Ky.

Lester Napier, 21, of 837 E. Jefferson, was arrested yesterday morning on a warrant, charging rape, taken out by the mother of a 13-year-old girl. 30h(2)

Police were told the girl went to the vicinity of Napier's quarters looking for someone. When she stopped at Napier's home to make inquiries, he assaulted her, according to the warrant. Ky.

An examination at General Hospital showed the child had been raped. Napier denied the charge. Mon. 11-24-47

30h(2) 1947 Massachusetts

7659

7659

Assailant Slays Man, Rapes Girl On Kidnap Ride

10-20-47

Victim Tells Police Of Repeated Attacks During Wild Trek

30h(2)

DRACUT, Mass. Oct. 20—(AP)—Fighting in defense of his girl friend, a 32-year-old Lowell construction worker, was slain early today by a gunman who then kidnaped the girl and, police said, raped her repeatedly during a wild four-hour automobile ride.

Detective James F. Conniff, of the state police, identified the slain man as Edward Pare and said he had been "stabbed or shot in the back—or possibly both."

A short time after the girl reported the attack, Detective Conniff said another Lowell man hunted for questioning attempted suicide by shooting himself in nearby Lexington. Coniff identified the man as Russell Davis, 23, an Army Air Corps veteran.

A police officer was sent to Davis' bedside in Symmes-Arlington Hospital, Arlington.

DETECTIVE CONIFF said Marion Richards, 24, of Lowell, told investigators she was sitting with Pare in a parked auto in a woods road when an assailant brandishing both a shotgun and knife approached them.

Coniff said the girl then told this story: 10-20-47

Pare got out of the car and the two men fought until Pare fell mortally wounded.

The gunman ordered her into his auto and then sped off through Lower New Hampshire—"stopping nearly every five minutes to attack me at gunpoint. 10-20-47

She was held prisoner for nearly four hours before the assailant drove her back to Lowell, letting her out of the car with a warning to "keep quiet until I have a chance to get away."

PARE'S BODY WAS FOUND after she reported the attack to Lowell police at 5:40 a.m.

She noted the registration number on the assailant's car as he speeded away.

Coniff said that Davis was found slumped in a parked auto by Lexington police, who had been alerted to watch for the car.

Davis was taken to Stymmes-Arlington Hospital, where his condition was not believed critical.

Escort Slain, Woman Is Assaulted

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga. 30h(2)
Jour., 10-23-47

DRACUT, Mass., Oct. 21—(AP)—A young estranged Army wife told police Monday that a gunman she saw slay her male companion, kidnapped her for a four-hour ride of terror during which he compelled her to ride naked beside him and criminally assaulted her in repeated attacks.

State Police Captain Joseph P. Crescio identified the killer as a 23-year-old Army Air Force Veteran, Russell Davis, under guard in a hospital after an attempted suicide and reported in "fair" condition Monday night.

Capt. Crescio said when Davis recovers sufficiently he will be charged with murder in the slaying of Edward Pare, 32, Lowell, Mass., construction worker and also a veteran, whose death wounds had not been determined pending an autopsy.

Kidnaped after she saw her escort, Pare, killed in a fight on a lonely road early Monday, Capt. Crescio said, was Mrs. Marion Richards, 24, mother of two children and separated from an Army Sergeant now stationed in Italy.

"I saw the gleam of a knife" during the struggle, Mrs. Richards was quoted as saying, after telling police that the slayer came up to the car in which she and Pare were parked and demanded Pare's wallet. Constitution

She was staring at Pare "covered with blood on the road," Mrs. Richards said, when the killer dragged her to his car and drove toward New Hampshire.

Atlanta, Ga.

Then, Capt. Crescio quoted the young wife as saying:

"He ordered me to take off my clothes and I pleaded with him not to. He said "Take them off or I'll cut them off.' He took off his clothes and attacked me.

10-23-47

"He drove on naked and he kept stopping and attacking me, nearly every five minutes. He kept saying, 'The fool, he should have given me that wallet!.'"

The gunman drove her to her home, Mrs. Richards said, and left her with the admonition: "Keep quiet until I have a chance to get away." 10-23-47

Capt. Crescio said the slain man suffered a deep wound in his back. Davis, said the officer, shot himself in the stomach.

News
Birmingham, Ala.
30h(2)
Tue. 10-24-47

ACCUSED AND ACCUSER—Mrs. Marion Richards, 24, estranged 'wife of an overseas American soldier (top) charges that Russell Davis, 23 (bottom), Air Forces veteran, killed her escort, with whom she was parked on a lonely road near Dracut, Mass., then kidnaped and raped her several times on a wild ride into New Hampshire. Mrs. Richards identified Davis as her assailant in a hospital, where he was operated upon for the removal of two bullets from his stomach. Police said he had tried to kill himself. The picture of Davis was taken while he was in the service. (Associated Press wirephoto.)

Kills Escort, Attacks Woman, Shoots Self

30h(2)
Mirror
New York, N.Y.

DRACUT, Mass., Oct. 20 (AP).—A young estranged Army wife told police today a gunman slew her male companion in her presence, kidnaped her for a four-hour ride of terror during which he compelled her to ride naked beside him and raped her repeatedly. N.Y.M.Y.

State Police Capt. Crescio identified the killer as an Army Airforce veteran, Russell Davis, 23, under guard in a hospital after an attempted suicide, reported in "fair" condition tonight. He was found slumped in the front seat of his car in nearby Lexington. He had shot himself in the stomach.

Russell Davis Under guard.

Capt. Crescio said when Davis recovers sufficiently he will be charged with murder in the slaying of Edward Pane, 32, Lowell, Mass., construction worker and also a veteran.

Kidnaped after she saw her escort, Pare, killed in a fight on a lonely road early today, Capt. Crescio said, was Mrs. Marion Richards, 24, mother of two children and separated from an Army sergeant now stationed in Italy.

"I saw the gleam of a knife' during the struggle, Mrs. Richards was quoted as saying, after telling police the slayer came up to the car in which she and Pare were parked and demanded Pare's wallet.

She was staring at Pare "covered with blood on the road," Mrs. Richards said, when the killer dragged her to his car and drove toward New Hampshire.

Then, Capt. Crescio quoted the wife as saying: 11-2-47

"He ordered me to take off my clothes. I pleaded with him not to. He said 'take them off or I'll cut them off.' He took off his clothes and attacked me. 11-2-47

"He drove on naked and he kept stopping and attacking me, nearly every five minutes.

The gunman drove her to her home, Mrs. Richards said, and left her with the admonition: "Keep quiet until I have a chance to get away."

[International News Service quoted Mrs. Richards as saying Davis asked her to kill him. Doctors said she had been attacked six times during the wild ride, INS reported.]

Attempted Suicide Named As Slayer And Ravisher

Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.

DRACUT, Mass., Oct. 21—(AP)—The estranged wife of a soldier serving in Italy walked into the operating room of an Arlington Hospital during the night and, State Police Capt. Joseph Crescio said, identified an Air Force veteran as the roadside slayer of her companion and her assailant in a nightmarish kidnap-ride. 30h(2)

Crescio said that Mrs. Marion Richards, 24, mother of two children, identified him as the person who had stabbed and bludgeoned to death her friend, Edward Pare, 32, also a veteran, and then raped her in repeated attacks.

Crescio named the man as Russell D. Davis, 23. He will be arraigned on a charge of murder upon recovery, Crescio said. Surgeons had removed two bullets from his stomach shortly before Mrs. Richards made her dramatic entrance to the operating room. The police captain said he had attempted suicide.

The officer quoted Mrs. Richards as saying that a man carrying a doubled-barrel shotgun appeared at the door of their automobile as she and Pare were parked on a lonely road late Sunday night.

Crescio said she related how the man bludgeoned and stabbed Pare to death and then took her on a wild ride through the northerly section of Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, forcing her to strip. Jue. 10-21-47

The police captain said she reported she was attacked several times during the four hours the man held her prisoner in his car.

Davis was found several hours later, slumped in his automobile in Arlington. Physicians said that he will recover. Jue. 10-21-47

Police quoted Mrs. Richards as saying that Davis and Pare had been friends.

30h(2) 1947 Massachusetts

7661

Mother Hears of Rape Murder, Surrenders Her Teen-Age Son

30h(2) Mass.

P. M. Tues 3-4-47

New York, N.Y.

She Had Begged Reform School Not to Send Him Home

By James T. Howard

Three small boys cutting across an open field to reach public school at Malden, Mass., found the body of 11-year-old Jacqueline Maxwell, missing all night. She had been raped and murdered, then partially buried under a heap of stones, boards and plaster behind an antique dealer's shop.

Mrs. Elizabeth Coombes, listening to a radio news broadcast describing the crime, remembered how her son, Robert, 17, had attacked another little girl in the same field. He served time in reform school until three months ago when he was sent home. She said:

'I Think It's My Boy You're Looking for'

"I begged them not to let him out," she told the police over the telephone. Tues 3-4-47

Roused from sleep, Robert denied at first that he attacked Jacqueline, but his mother pointed out that he had come home late from a trip to the movies, refusing to say how his coat and pants became torn and caked with mud. After a while, police said, he broke down and made a detailed confession. P. M.

Jacqueline went to the movies in the afternoon with an older sister, Bertha, 14, who returned alone and told her mother that she and Jacqueline had quarreled. She had walked out in a huff and left Jacqueline alone. Tues 3-4-47

Mother Only Did 'What Was Right'

Robert, who said he knew the girl slightly, related that he followed her from the theater and offered to walk home with her. They were crossing the field, a stone's throw from the girl's home, when he seized her. He said she must have been killed "accidentally" when her head hit a stone as she fell trying to get away.

"I only wanted to do what was right," said the boy's mother. "I am the mother of a daughter, too, and I wouldn't like somebody like him running around loose. He should not have been released from reform school." Tues 3-4-47

P M

Bertha Maxwell, 14, weeps for her dead sister. Marie Gonzales, 14, tries to comfort her.

Associated Press Wirephoto

P. M. Tues 3-4-47

Rape Victim's Funeral is Plea For Sex Law

P. M. Sun 3-9-47

New York, N.Y.

The 30-car funeral cortege of 11-year-old Jacqueline Maxwell followed a circuitous course from a Boston church to a Malden cemetery in order to roll past the State House on Boston's Beacon Hill to halt briefly beneath the windows of the executive suite where Gov. Robert F. Bradford worked at his desk.

The demonstration was arranged as a plea for tighter laws governing the treatment and release of sex offenders. Sun 3-9-47

Meanwhile, at Cambridge, Robert Coombes, 17, pleaded innocent and was placed under mental observation. Coombes was turned over to police by his mother who said she had opposed his release from a reform school. Defense counsel has indicated he will plead insanity.

Angry Women Rush Coombes

30h(2) Mass.

P. M. Wed 3-5-47

Robert Coombes, 17, charged with the rape murder of 11-year-old Jacqueline Maxwell, at Malden, Mass., was whisked out of the back door of Malden courthouse, after pleading not guilty, but he couldn't escape the wrath of the little girl's female relatives.

New York, N.Y.

They raced around the building screaming: "You murderer! You beast! You killer! They threw themselves at the police lines, arms flailing, but policemen held them back as the handcuffed youth was hustled into a police car.

Mrs. Elizabeth Coombes, who surrendered her son to the police because she thought it the right thing to do, witnessed the spectacle from the sidelines. She repeated her bitter criticism of the Shirley Industrial School for Boys for releasing the youth, a two-time sex offender. Wed 3-5-47

Benjamin Joy, chairman of the school's trustees, said the board had no alternative but to abide by sentences and release inmates who have complied with regulations.

Young Girl Slain In New England

Montgomery Advertiser

30h(2) Montgomery, Ala.

LAWRENCE, ~~MASS~~., Sept. 8.—(AP)—Victim of a savage sex assailant, the body of seven-year-old Louise Anne Kurpiel was found today on the bank of the Merrimack River. Tue. 9-9-47

After a two-hour autopsy, State Pathologist Alan R. Moritz said he found evidence of attempted rape and possible strangulation and that the child had suffered multiple fractures of the jaw and head. The skull was so severely battered the brain was exposed, he said.

Dr. Moritz deferred ascribing specific cause of death pending microscopic and chemical tests which were expected to disclose if the little victim died of strangulation before other injuries were inflicted.

Acting on reports from two couples who had been fishing in the river last evening, police sought a young man in this twenties. The man asked for a match, the anglers said, and when it flared up as he lighted a cigarette his hands appeared covered with blood.

The anglers related that when questioned as to what had happened, the young man replied, "oh, I've been in a jam," and walked away. Tues. 9-9-47

Discovery of Louise's body, almost nude, ended an all night search by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kurpiel, police and neighbors.

Vet Slain, Girl Raped; Suspect Tries Suicide

30h(2)

DRACUT, ~~Mass.~~, Oct. 20.—A Dracut war veteran was slain and his girl friend was kidnaped and raped early today. Police reported that a Lowell man sought for questioning in the crimes attempted suicide at Lexington a few hours later. Daily Worker

Police said that Russell P. Davis, 23, of Lowell, Mass., was found in his parked car on the Lowell Turnpike in a wooded section of Lexington. They said he had shot himself in the stomach with a rifle found in the car. Davis' was taken to Symmes-Arlington Hospital where his condition was described as "fair." N.Y. N.Y.

Victim of the slaying was Edward Pare, 30, of Dracut, an unmarried construction worker and war veteran. Tues.

His body, with stab wounds in the back, was found in a Dracut Lovers' Lane about five hours after the attack was reported by his girl friend, Miss Marion Richards, 24, of Lowell. 10-21-47

Miss Richards had identified Davis, an acquaintance, as the slayer and rapist, and state police had broadcast a New England-wide alarm for his arrest.

The wounded Davis was found after a passing motorist had noticed the slumped form in his parked automobile and notified police.

First word of the slaying came from Miss Richards who staggered into Lowell Police headquarters, her face and head bruised and bleeding.

The girl said Davis beat her and attacked her several times before releasing her.

30h (2)

(▲) Women relatives of slain Jacqueline Maxwell try to get their hands on Robert Coombes outside the courthouse at Malden, Mass. The face of Mrs. Ella Alexander, an aunt, is visible over policeman's shoulder; Mrs. Minnie Tanzer, another aunt, has a hand upraised, and Lorraine Tanzer, a cousin, cries out at right. At right (▶) Mrs. Elizabeth Coombes leaves court with her son's lawyer, Edward Bushell.

Time

CRIME

Mother Knew Best

30h (2)

The first time Robert Coombes was accused of attacking a little girl, his mother believed he was innocent. After all, he was only 14. He was a little sullen, but a nice-looking boy with his dark curly hair. That was three years ago. The second time, when he attacked a seven-year-old girl in a cinder-strewn lot near his home in Malden, Mass., his mother knew better. 3-17-47-mon,

She talked to parole officers, told them frankly that the boy was unbalanced, and begged them to keep him "somewhere away from general society." The state refused, gave him just the routine "training" school punishment. Chicago, Ill,

One night last week Mrs. Coombes was sitting in the front room of her dingy first-floor flat, waiting for Robert. He had been released from a training school three weeks before. About 9 o'clock he came in. His trousers were muddy and covered with wet cinders. He explained that he had been splashed by a car. As usual, he refused to say where he had been.

Next morning Mrs. Coombes was listening to the radio. There was a news flash. The body of an eleven-year-old girl had been found under some boards in the same lot where Robert had assaulted the other little girl two years before.

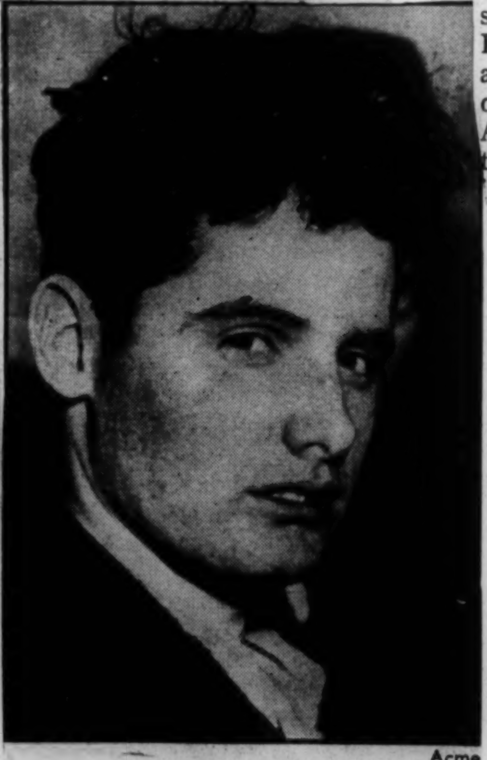
White-lipped, Mrs. Coombes telephoned the police, asked them to get Robert. To police, Robert confessed that he had attacked the little girl, but claimed she had hit her head on a rock. The police thought differently. She had died of asphyxiation and strangulation. Said Mrs. Coombes sadly: "Robert should never have been released." Time 3-17-47 mon,

There Were Others. Massachusetts broke into an uproar of indignation. Why had Robert been released? Authorities explained that, under existing regulations, the school parole committee can "only judge on the boy's behavior in custody; past record doesn't enter into the tenure of his sentence." Robert's behavior in school had been good. Chicago, Ill,

Why had Robert not been placed in a mental institution? The law was that Robert, though "psychopathic," could not be committed because he was neither insane nor feebleminded.

Why had he had no mental care? Benjamin Joy, chairman of the board of trustees for Massachusetts Training Schools, explained that he had been refused permission to hire psychiatrists, though one out of five inmates were mentally defective.

At week's end, the air was thick with demands for investigations and reforms. Newspapers reminded readers that there were 1,040 other known sex offenders whom the state had freed after they had served their sentences. Governor Robert Bradford declared that he would ask for a mental hospital for psychopathic delinquents, not now committable as insane. A special legislative commission declared that Massachusetts was 50 years behind in treatment of child delinquency.



Acme

ROBERT COOMBES
A state was shaken.

30h(2) 1947

Massachusetts

7662

7662

Associated Press Wirephoto.

MRS. MARION RICHARDS

Charges she was raped.

Student Held As Rapist, Slayer of Girl's Escort

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Dracut, Mass., Oct. 20 (UP)—A young photography student was alleged to have shot and stabbed a Dracut veteran to death today, kidnaped and raped the victim's girl friend, and later shot himself in the abdomen with a .22 rifle.

Miss Marion Richards, 24, Lowell, who said she had been beaten and raped several times after her escort, Edward Pare, 30, was slain, identified Russell P. Davis, 23, also of Lowell, as the assailant.

30h(2)

Pare's body was found in a Dracut lovers lane about 5 hours after the attack was reported by Miss Richards. Davis was found in his parked automobile on Lowell Turnpike and police said he had attempted suicide with a rifle they found in the car.

Started As Holdup. Sat.

Bruised and bleeding from face and head cuts, Miss Richards, divorced mother of two children, told police that Davis had appeared at the window of a car in which she sat with Pare.

"He pointed a rifle at us and told Ed to hand over his wallet," she said. "Ed got out of the car and they began fighting. Russell pulled a knife and stabbed Ed. Then he made me get in his car and drove me to New Hampshire."

There, she said, she was ordered to remove her clothes and was alternately beaten and raped as she and her abductor drove naked along woodland back roads.

Gave Her $5 Bill. Tues.

Finally, she said, Davis drove her home, gave her a $5 bill and said:

10-21-47

"I suppose you're going to tell the police."

When she told him she had no telephone at her home she quoted him as saying "Good, that will give me time to get away."

Davis was reported in "fair condition" at Stymmes-Arlington Hospital where he was taken

after a motorist noticed him slumped behind the wheel of his car. He was an Air Forces sergeant in World War II and lately has been studying photography at a Manchester, N. H., school.

30h(2) 1947 Michigan

7663

Blonde Co-Ed Tells Details Leading To Assault Trial

30h(2) Constitution

Fri 5-2-47

ANN ARBOR, Mich., May 1—(INS)—A former University of Michigan co-ed related details of the incident which led to the trial Wednesday of Glenn Whittle, 21, of Chicago, on charges of criminal assault.

Atlanta Ga.

The 19-year-old blonde, Patricia Brighton, of Dearborn, Mich., hesitated frequently in her replies to Prosecutor Douglas K. Reading before a packed courtroom of 200, including many former schoolmates of both her and Whittle.

She said she met him the afternoon of Jan. 15, accepted his invitation to a steak party at a private home, then let him drive her home. She said she asked Whittle to let her drive, "because he had been drinking," but admitted she had three bottles of beer.

"He was in no condition to drive," she said. The blonde former co-ed said he parked at a lonely spot and asked her to get into the back seat.

"Did he make any overtures of affection on the drive?" the Prosecutor asked.

Fri 5-2-47

"No."

"What happened then?"

"He lifted himself into the back seat and asked me again to get back with him and I told him 'no.' . . . I locked my hands around the steering wheel . . . He broke my grip. He pulled my feet down and threw me onto the seat."

"What happened then?"

"I started to struggle with him. He told me to stop and I didn't. Then he showed me his handkerchief wrapped around his fist. He said 'Do you, want me to use this?' I had my hand against his throat and was exerting pressure. Then he struck my right eye.

"I was dazed. He asked me would I go through with it or did I want to find myself lying along the road without any clothes on."

The girl said, under questioning by the Prosecutor, she gave in to Whittle's demands "because I was afraid for my life."

Whittle insisted, at an earlier hearing, that the girl willingly submitted to intimacies.

The girl said Whittle drank throughout the party, which broke up at 2 a. m. She added that Whittle returned to drive her home after taking "his girl" and two other couples home.

Whittle's attorney, John W. Rae, moved for a mistrial on grounds Reading's opening remarks were prejudicial and included inadmissible evidence. The motion was denied by Judge James Breakey, Jr.

5-2-47

The Prosecutor charged the alleged attack culminated "months of planning by Whittle to get alone with the girl."

Co-ed Admits Prior Caresses In 'Attack' Case Against Date

30h(2) Constitution

Sat 5-3-47

ANN ARBOR, Mich., May 2—(UP)—The 19-year-old complaining co-ed against Glenn Whittle, 21, a collegian on trial on a charge of criminal assault, admitted under cross-examination Thursday that at a party preceding the alleged attack, she permitted one man to massage her ankle and another man to kiss her.

Atlanta Ga

Pretty, blonde Patricia Ann Brighton, expelled with Whittle from the University, of Michigan, charged under direct examination Whittle forced her into the back seat of his car and attacked her while taking her home from a party they had attended in the home of F. C. Mosley, a typewriter salesman, the night of Jan. 16.

She admitted to Whittle's lawyer she accepted Whittle's invitation to attend the party though they never had been formally introduced.

Constitution

When she arrived at the party, she testified, she found she was an "extra girl." Four couples—including Whittle and a girl friend—were there. She admitted she kissed one man who had a date, but "Moseley occupied my attentions."

Sat 5-3-47

Moseley massaged her ankle at one time during the party after she had injured it, she continued. She said she was referred to during the party as "Mrs. Moseley."

The willowy co-ed said after the other couples left in observance of the 10 p. m. campus co-ed curfew, she accompanied Moseley to downtown Ann Arbor.

They spent "quite a while" in his deserted typewriter shop and later had a drink at a private club.

After she and Moseley had returned to his home, she testified, they found Whittle waiting for her and she accepted his offer to take her home.

Sat 5-3-47

Miss Brighton charged that Whittle parked the car on a lonely road, pulled her into the back seat, blackened her eye with his handkerchief-wrapped fist, then assaulted her.

Pressed for a detailed account of her activities during hours preceding the party, Miss Brighton said she had made a luncheon date with a student "whose name I can't remember and had never dated before" but he failed to "show up." She ate alone, she said, and met another student who took her to a movie.

Miss Brighton said she was passing a tavern later when she was called inside by Whittle and another student and asked to the party.

Sat 5-3-47

The prosecution will present 13 more witnesses.

9-Year-Old Girl Attacked, Left In Snow

News

Birmingham Ala.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 6—(AP)—Left bound and gagged in a snowy field after being raped, a 9-year-old girl remained [redacted] serious condition at Butterworth Hospital Saturday as police pressed search for her assailant.

30h(2)

Deputy Sheriffs Jack Weist and Arthur Canis, of Kent County, said the child told them the man, about 30, had picked her up Friday morning in his 1937 car while she was on her way to school.

The attacker held her prisoner about three hours before tying her up and leaving her on a pile of half-melted snow, officers quoted the girl as saying.

12-6-47

Mr. and Mrs. William Isaacs, of Petoskey, driving past the place saw the child only partly clothed, gagged with a dirty towel and bound with wire. They took her to a nearby residence and notified police.

Sat.

Wiest and Canis expressed belief the man sought is the same one who attempted to rape a 5-year-old girl here a month ago.

30h(2) 1947

Mississippi

7664

Miss. Police Hunt White Attacker

Atlanta Ga. Daily World

30h(2) Tues. 7-15-47

JACKSON, Miss—(ANP)—Hinds county peace officers began a search Saturday for an unidentified white man who raped a 12-year-old girl in a wooded section five miles south of Terry.

The white man had been to her home several times recently to get her to "keep the children" while he and his wife went fishing, the girl told police. When she finally agreed, he picked her up Saturday morning around 7 a.m. and drove her to a secluded place near Terry where he spread a quilt on the ground and criminally assaulted her. He brought her to her home about noon, she said. Tues. 7-15-47

She described the man as about 25 years of age, five feet, seven inches tall and weighing around 150 pounds. An examination by Dr. George Riley, Hinds county health officer, confirmed the child's report that she had been assaulted. She was wearing a pink blouse, blue slacks, white sandals and red beads when assaulted.

NAACP Press Release 30h(2)

NEGRO GIRL BEATEN, RAPED IN MERIDIAN

New York, N.Y. 8-22-47-Fri.

August 22, 1947

Meridian, Miss., Aug 22nd--NAACP officials in this city were attempting to arouse sufficient public opinion to guarantee the prosecution of a well-to-do white oil dealer who allegedly raped and tortured a Negro girl lured by promises of a job as baby sitter. Prospects of any action against the rapist appeared slim, although it was learned that he had been asked to post a five hundred dollar bond.

Ruby Attee Pigford, from her bed in a local hospital, told NAACP members that James Lee Perry, a salesman for the Fowler Butane Gas Company of Meridian, had beaten her unmercifully, until she lost consciousness, raped her and dragged her bound body behind his car when her frightened refusal to accompany him into a roadhouse infuriated him. After dragging her behind his car along a dirt road he carried her back to her home unconscious. 8-22-47-Fri. NAACP Press Release New York, N.Y.

Perry, who would ordinarily be described as a clean-cut Mississippi businessman, allegedly appeared at the Pigford home to sell the girl's mother some gas. When Mrs. Pigford's mother assured him that she had no need for gas, Perry allegedly asked whether she had a daughter who wanted to work. He was then introduced to Mrs. Pigford whom he offered 70 cents an hour to take care of his children. She agreed to keep his children that night while he and his wife attended a rodeo. The alleged rape occurred on the way to Perry's home. 8-22-47-Fri.

Hunt Mississippi White Accused By Girl, 12, in Attack Case

30h(2)

Pittsburgh Courier—Pa.

JACKSON, Miss.—(ANP)—Hinds County peace officers began a search Saturday for an unidentified white man who raped a 12-year-old girl in a wooded section five miles south of Terry.

The white man had been to her home several times recently to get her to "keep the children" while he and his wife went fishing, the girl told police. When she finally agreed, he picked her up Saturday morning around 7 o'clock and drove her to a secluded place near Terry where he spread a quilt on the ground and criminally assaulted her. He brought her to her home about noon, she said. Sat 7-13-47

She described the man as about 25 years of age, five feet, seven inches tall and weighing around 150 pounds. An examination by Dr. George Riley, Hinds County health officer, confirmed the child's report that she had been assaulted.

Negro Girl Beaten, Raped In Meridian

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta Ga.

MERIDIAN, Miss.—(SNS)— 22nd—NAACP officials in this city were attempting to arouse sufficient public opinion to guarantee the prosecution of a well-to-do white oil dealer who allegedly raped and tortued a Negro girl lured by promises of a job as baby sitter. Prospects of any action against the rapist appeared slim, although it was learned that he had been asked to post a fiev-hundred dollar bond. 8-26-47 Tues.

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30h(2) 1947

Nebraska

7665

Journal 5-11-47

Louisville Ky.

Associated Press Wirephoto.

HORROR in her eyes, Mrs. Ernest Swanson kept repeating "That man has taken my daughter" as she was lifted into a police ambulance in Omaha, Neb.

(30h(2)) Nebraska

Auto Driver Runs Down Girl And Then Tries to Attack Her

Courier Journal

Omaha, May 10 (AP)—Marjorie Swanson, 20, told from her hospital bed today how a motorist turned his car suddenly from the wrong side of the street, ran her and her mother down as they walked along a sidewalk, and then dragged her to some bushes where he beat and tried to attack her.

Journal 5-11-47

The man, for whom an intensive police search began soon after the incident about midnight last night, fled when men searching for her approached the bushes, Miss Swanson said.

"Mother and I saw the car coming, but we thought it was just going to go by," Miss Swanson related. "Suddenly it came over on the wrong side of the street, turned up on a little driveway, and hit us both at the same time.

"I don't remember anything then until this man was dragging me in the yard of the State School for the Deaf. He hit me very hard in the face with his fist, at least twice, and kicked me while I was lying on the ground. He threw his jacket over my head. He said 'I'll kill you if you look at me!'"

Louisville, Ky.

Her mother, only person at the scene when police arrived, suffered bruises and shock, and Miss Swanson suffered face and body bruises.

30h(2) 1947

New Jersey

7666

SHOT BY FAKE POLICEMAN

30h (2) Times

Ex-Sailor Fights Off Assailant in Jersey Despite Wound

New York, N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CAMDEN, N. J., May 10—Joseph Horton, 20 years old, of Berlin, N. J., a former sailor, was shot through the shoulder early today by a fake policeman who then attempted to attack the veteran's companion, Miss Ruth Rohm, 22, of Merchantville, N. J.

Despite his wound Horton fought the assailant while his companion fled from his car, parked in Wallworth Park, Haddonfield, to summon police. Six hours later the police arrested Isaac P. Sander, 32, of Haddonfield, and held him on charges of assault with intent to kill and attempted rape.

The suspect, described by the police as a former inmate of reformatories in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was identified by both Horton and Miss Rohm as the man who came up to their parked car while they were eating hamburgers. He told them, Miss Rohm said, that he was a policeman and that he was cold. Sun. 5-11-47

30h(2) 1947 New Mexico

7668

3 Vacationing Coeds Raped

Courier-Journal

Santa Fe, N. M., Sept. 24 (U.P.)—Police sought three New Mexican youths tonight in connection with the rape of three vacationing coeds, two of them exchange students from Norway. 30h(2)

Officers said the two European coeds and an American girl, who were fellow students at "a Midwestern university," were attacked last Thursday at Velarde, N. M., by five youths.

Two youths held in custody, Jose Telsfor Martinez and Ubaldo Fresquez, were charged with assault with intent to commit criminal assault. Louisville, Ky.

An alert was out for the other three men, charged with criminal assault and intent to commit criminal assault. 30h(2) Times

Police said the three coeds were hitchhiking back toschool after touring the Southwest when six youths in two cars stopped and offered them a life.

7667

Long Island Scoured For Wife Snatchers

30h(2) The Constitution

Atlanta, Ga. Sat. 2-1-47

NEW YORK, Jan. 31—(UP)—New York State and city police searched Long Island Friday for a trace of the four young thugs who snatched pretty, blonde Mrs. Phoebe Hill from her husband's side on a Manhattan street, took her on a wild, 60-mile automobile ride, and criminally assaulted and robbed her.

Mrs. Hill, former dancer, and her husband, Max Hilll, NBC radio commentator and former foreign correspondent, conferred with police in Suffolk County, on Long Island. Atlanta, Ga.

One State Trooper said that "we have a good lead on who these men are." Sat. 2-1-47

The kidnaping occurred Wednesday night. The Hills had spent much of the evening drinking in a bar. They were walking toward their apartment at 340 East Fifty-second St., in a midtown section of swanky apartment houses, when four young men attacked them.

It was from the same apartment building that Hill's first wife, Mrs. June Hill, leaped to her death last Nov. 10. Hill married his present wife a few weeks ago.

One of the four men grabbed Mrs. Hill's wrist. Hill tried to free his wife, but the other three men began beating him into unconsciousness. The men forced Mrs. Hill into a car, one with his hand over her mouth.

The fight drew a crowd, but one of the men assured onlookers "it's all right. We'll take her home. We know her husband."

Then the car sped away, across Queensboro Bridge and into Long Island. Mrs. Hill said there was little conversation for some time until one of the men said, "That last signpost said we're 60 miles from New York. Turn here."

The car turned into a dirt side-road and stopped.

"We'll let you go as soon as we're finished," one of the men told Mrs. Hill.

Then, she said, three of the men attacked her. It was nearly dawn when the men started the car again and headed toward New York. But they ran out of gas near Syosset. They took two rings, a wrist watch and a pocketbook from Mrs. Hill and fled, leaving her in the car. Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Hill hailed a passing motorist, who drove her to a police station at Syosset. Still half-hysterical and suffering from shock, she was taken to Meadowbrook Hospital. The Constitution

Hill was summoned and he sped to Long Island to join his wife. His face was bruised and cut. He told police, when he regained consciousness, he went home and paced the sidewalk in front of his apartment, waiting for his wife. He did not say why he did not report the kidnaping. The first New York police knew of it was when they were notified by Long Island police. Sat. 2-1-47

Hill formerly was Tokyo Bureau manager for the Associated Press and was interned by the Japanese after Pearl Harbor. He was repatriated aboard the Gripsholm and wrote a book about the experience called "Exchange Ship." Later he went to Europe for NBC.

BOY, 6, SAVES MOTHER FROM BEING RAPED

New York Times

30h(2) Sat 1-4-1947

Mrs. Rose Bloom, 28-year-old housewife, was attacked in her fourth floor apartment at 3031 Brighton Fourteenth Street, Brooklyn, yesterday noon and was saved from rape by the opportune arrival from kindergarten of her son, Gerald, 6, seeking his lunch. New York, N.Y.

Finding his mother struggling with a strange man in the bedroom, the boy ran screaming into the hallway. Before the neighbors arrived, the man had fled.

Mrs. Bloom was taken to Coney Island Hospital suffering from a possible fracture of the jaw, two blackened eyes, lacerations of the throat and shock. She described her assailant as a blond, good-looking man, about 30 years old, five feet eleven inches tall, weighing about 180 pounds and wearing a checkered overcoat and no hat.

Mrs. Bloom left the apartment at noon to meet her son. The man was in the hallway. He forced her back into the apartment. She fought off his advances until he had forced her into the bedroom, where her four-weeks' old son, Stephen, lay sleeping in his bassinet. The man had thrown her on the bed and was choking her when Gerald entered. The boy's cries frightened the intruder and he ran from the apartment.

'Lead' on Hill Abductors

30h(2)

P.M. New York, N.Y.

Armed with a good lead, State and City police are hunting for four young men who kidnaped, robbed, and attacked pretty Phoebe Hill, 26-year-old bride of NBC commentator and author Max Hill.

Mrs. Hill, a former dancer and night-club singer, was seized about 3 a.m. Wednesday near Hill's apartment at 340 E. 52nd St., from which the first Mrs. Hill dived to her death from a seventh-floor apartment last Nov. 10. Sun

Detective Daniel Scannell said the Hills had spent most of the evening in a bar at 53rd St. and Second Ave., that they quarrelled and Mrs. Hill went outside, that Hill followed in time to see the four men accost her, interfered, and was knocked out. N.Y.

To the crowd which had gathered one of the four assailants said "it's all right, we'll take her home; we know her husband." 2-2-47

They threw her into a 1941 black Pontiac sedan—later found to have been stolen from a Richmond Hill resident Wednesday morning—and drove to somewhere near Syosset, in Suffolk County, where they attacked her, robbed her of two rings, a wristwatch, about $5 in cash, and then fled on foot.

Mrs. Hill and her husband, who is 42, said all four of the assailants wore field jackets, that three were swarthy and one was blond, and that none seemed to be over 21. State police said "we have a good lead on who these men are."

Hill has a daughter, June, 15, by his first marriage. He remarried a few weeks ago. 2-2-47 Sun.

GUILTY IN ASSAULT CASE

The New York Times

Man Makes Plea, Faces Eighty Years in State Prison

30h(2) N.Y.

George Smith, 20 years old, of 362 Grand Avenue, Brooklyn, pleaded guilty yesterday before Judge Louis Goldstein in Kings County Court to an indictment charging him with attempted assault on the wife of a Brooklyn minister. Facing a maximum sentence of eighty years, he was remanded to the Brooklyn City Prison to await sentence, a date for which was not fixed. 30h(2)

Supporting himself on crutches, Smith was brought to the court from Bellevue Hospital, where he has been a prisoner since last June 8, when the left leg was broken while he was being pursued by the Rev. Alvin E. Magary, pastor of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, after the defendant had been found in the bedroom of the pastor's home, 102 Cambridge Place, Brooklyn. Fri-7-25-47

Mrs. Magary, who was asleep in the room, was awakened by the intruder. Her screams attracted her husband, who was in the kitchen. He battled with Smith. In the course of the struggle, Smith pulled the trigger of a .22 caliber German pistol, but it failed to fire because it was loaded with the wrong ammunition.

Man Weeps, Halts Trial to Admit Attacking Colonel's French Bride

New York, N.Y. Times Thur. 6-12-47

30h(2) N.Y.

His words punctuated by sobs, a rape case defendant in Kings County Court confessed yesterday to his attack on the French bride of an Army lieutenant colonel.

The defendant, Norman Greenberg, 28 years old, of 3145 Brighton Fourth Street, Brooklyn, followed his plea of guilty with an apology to the victim, Mrs. Andree Cropp, 27.

"You are a very fine woman," he said, turning to Mrs. Cropp. "I regret what I've done. I'm terribly sorry that this was your introduction to American life."

When Greenberg signified his intention to interrupt his three-day trial with a plea, Judge Samuel S. Lebowitz called the Cropps into the court room.

Greenberg was half-carried before the bench, tears filling his eyes as he looked toward Judge Leibowitz.

"You heard Mrs. Cropp testify as to the attack and rape in the automobile," Judge Leibowitz said "Did she tell the substantial truth?"

"Yes, your honor," Greenberg replied.

"Did you rape her?"

"Yes, sir, I forced myself on her."

"Did she resist you or try to fight you off?"

"Yes, sir." Thur. 6-12-47

Throughout his exchange with the judge, Greenberg sobbed, his voice barely audible in the court room. Spectators had been barred from the trial.

In Greenberg's presence Judge Leibowitz told Mrs. Cropp that he was "deeply sorry that this was her introduction to American life."

At this point, Greenberg, still sobbing, asked to "say something." He then presented his apology.

Through an interpreter Mrs. Cropp expressed her thanks to the Court "for your words." 30h(2)

"I want to assure you my stay in America will not be affected by that first day here," she continued. "I have stayed with American families in Paris and know Americans are fine people." N.Y.

Greenberg and his co-defendant, Harry R. Manesevitz, 28, of 3052 Brighton Fifth Street, also Brooklyn, had been indicted on charges of kidnapping, robbery, assault and grand larceny. Greenberg, in addition, was accused of first-degree rape, to which he pleaded guilty.

The attack took place in the early morning of May 26, thirteen hours after Mrs. Cropp and her husband, Lieut. Col. Stanley H. Cropp, had arrived in the United States from Germany. The two defendants met the couple in a Brooklyn restaurant near Ft. Hamilton. The four agreed to spend the evening together seeing the sights of Manhattan and a few night clubs. Thur. 6-12-47

On the return trip to Brooklyn, Greenberg, who was driving his father's car, tricked Colonel Cropp into leaving the automobile on Avenue U and Gerritsen Avenue, a sparsely settled area. Greenberg then drove off, leaving the colonel behind. A few blocks away, at Avenue U and East Fifty-sixth Street, the attack took place.

Manesevitz was brought into the court room after Greenberg was taken out. Judge Leibowitz was assured that Manesevitz had not taken part in the attack, but did take $121 from the woman and then accepted a plea of guilty to first-degree grand larceny.

Greenberg faces a maximum sentence of twenty years in Sing Sing. Manesevitz was continued free in $20,000 bail for sentencing. No date was fixed in either case.

Colonel Tells Of Wild Night At Rape Trial

PM Tues. 6-10-47

New York, N.Y.

30h(2) N.Y.

Norman Greenberg, 28, went on trial yesterday before Judge Samuel Leibowitz and an all-male jury in Kings County Court charged with the kidnaping, assault, rape, and robbery of pretty Mrs. Andree Cropp, French war bride wife of Lt. Col. Stanley Cropp.

The alleged crimes are said to have taken place May 26, after the Cropps—fresh off the boat from Europe—met Greenberg and a pal, Harry Manesevitz, in a restaurant near Fot Hamilton, Brooklyn.

In his opening remarks, Saul Price, attorney for Greenberg, indicated he would try to show that Mrs. Cropp became infatuated with Greenberg after a night of drinking. He admitted Greenberg had had intimate relations with Mrs. Cropp, but denied Mrs. Cropp was attacked. Tues. 6-10-47

Cropp testified they went to Sammy's Bowery Follies, then to a Greenwich Village night spot and were on their way back to Fort Hamilton when the car was driven off the Belt Parkway to a rough side road which Greenberg said was a "short cut." Then Greenberg said the car was stalled, Cropp testified, and suggested that Cropp and Manesevitz get out and push. The car drove off, and Cropp testified he didn't see his wife until about an hour later in the police station.

Accused and Accuser In Tears at Rape Trial

30K(2) N.Y. PM

New York, N.Y.

The rape trial of Norman Greenberg piled one tense moment on top of another yesterday and then, late in the afternoon, the tension reached an unbearable climax.

The alleged victim, the French war bride Mrs. Andree Cropp, who had been on the stand in Kings County Court almost all day long, rose from the witness stand, pointed at Greenberg, and screamed: Wed. 6-11-47

"You dishonored me! The first day I came to this country you dishonored me! You will pay, you will pay!"

Greenberg, in Tears, Screams, 'You Lie'

And she erupted into convulsive sobs. Greenberg himself broke into tears, then screamed back:

"Why don't you tell the truth? You're lying and you know you're lying!

The scene culminated a long questioning of the 27-year-old French girl, wife of Lieut. Col. Stanley Cropp, 38, both of whom arrived in this country on May 25, the day they went on a sightseeing tour and wound up with tragedy.

Sympathetically, Assistant District Attorney Kenneth McCabe led Mrs. Cropp through her story. Sarcastically, Defense Attorney Saul Price took her over the jumps. Judge Samuel S. Liebowitz questioned her also and spared herher nothing. Wed. 6-11-47

Mrs. Cropps Denies 'Intimate' Dancing

There was no argument about the first part of the night of May 25. The Cropps met Greenberg and Harry Manesevitz in a bar near Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, where Cropp is stationed. The four went touring the town.

Mrs. Cropp admitted dancing with Greenberg, but denied it was "intimate" dancing.

Starting back in the car she and Greenberg sat in the rear, Cropp and Manesevitz in front. They hadn't gone far before Greenberg took the wheel and Manesevitz moved back with Mrs. Cropp. The car went off a side road and stopped, Cropp got out, the car went on without him.

Demonstrating, on Judge Liebowitz' orders, what allegedly happened next, Mrs. Cropp testified that Greenberg forced her into the back seat; (Liebowitz inquired, but the defense didn't get around to the point, now and when she got into the front seat); that one arm was pinned under her; that he held her other arm with one hand; that although she struggled he succeeded in raping her and that he then told Manesevitz it was his turn, but that Manesevitz refused.

She testified that she cried out to Greenberg, asking why he was doing this to her, and that he replied: "Because you are a colonel's wife and I was a private."

Wed. 6-11-47

She denied having wished to be intimate with Greenberg and denied willingly letting him have his way.

The defense demanded to know how Greenberg could have disrobed Mrs. Cropp with one hand.

Mrs. Cropp, who until then had testified in fairly good English, said in French that he had done so.

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3 Held on Rape Charge

Bail of $1000 was set yesterday for Edward Valentino, 20, 2806 Briggs Ave., The Bronx, charged with assault and rape. He and two others, who were held in $500 bail each, were accused of offering a Queens girl an auto ride, taking her from midtown to The Bronx, where the alleged assault took place, and then driving her downtown again. 30K(2) N.Y. PM.

New Scare In Rich Square

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

30h(2)

RICH SQUARE, N. C.—(ANP)—A countryside manhunt was begun here Sunday by a posse of 100 men, seeking an unidentified Negro assailant of a white woman at her home in nearby Lasker Saturday night. Wed. 6-4-47

According to the woman's testimony, the attacker came to her home about 11 p.m., knocked on the door, and seized her when she opened it. She said she screamed and fainted and that the man fled. The victim is said to be a recent high school graduate and a bride of two weeks.

Two Negroes, found within two miles of Lasker were taken into custody and charged with having helped the alleged assailant to escape. However, County Solicitor Ernest R. Tyler, who joined the manhunt, said that one would be charged with attempted rape and the other with aiding in unlawful flight. Both were taken to an undisclosed jail for safekeeping.

NO "MOB SPIRIT"

Wed. 6-4-47

Public feeling was described as "running high" by Sheriff J. C. Stephenson, but he said that there was no evidence of "mob spirit."

Rich Square is the scene of another alleged rape attempt in which a mob sought to mete out punishment to the suspect. The rape attempt happened about 10 days ago and Godwin Bush, 21-year-old laborer was arrested as a suspect. A mob of eight broke into the county jail at Jackson and removed him from a cell preparatory to lynching him. Bush, however, escaped from the mob and surrendered two days later to police. He is now being held for trial at the state prison in Raleigh.

Three Soldiers Held, One Freed in Rape

Daily Worker Sat. 7-5-47 New York, N.Y.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., July 4 (UP).—One Fort Bragg soldier went free today as his three companions were held without bond for grand jury on charges of raping a 21-year-old blonde they lured into their car at a tourist camp. 30h(2)

Acting Recorder Lacy Collier ordered charges of being an accessory dropped in the case of Pvt. Paul L. Stevens of Chicago. Edwina Scroggs of Baltimore, mother of two children, testified she was attacked twice as the young soldiers held her during a wild early morning automobile ride. Sat. 7-5-47

HOLD N.C. WHITE MAN FOR ATTACKING GIRL IN BOAT

The Chicago Defender Chicago, Ill.

WILMINGTON, N. C.—W. F. Smith, wealthy white business man and sailboat enthusiast, was held this week on bonds of $1,000 charged with criminal assault upon an 18-year-old Negro girl. The girl charged that Smith attacked her twice while she was aboard his boat which was stuck on a sandbar in Cape Fear river.

The girl, who reported the attack when she landed, after Smith had warned her to remain silent, told the police that Smith had hired her to clean the cabin of his boat and to return next day for her money. When she came aboard to collect her wages, Smith sailed the boat upstream and ran it aground on a sand bar. There he raped her twice while they remained aboard the boat until it was freed by the tide.

The girl reported the attack to her parents, who swore out a warrant for Smith's arrest.

Minister To Face Charges By Girl, 14

Columbia Record Columbia, S.C.

30h(2)

RALEIGH, N. C., Sept. 16.—(AP)—State authorities said today that the Rev. L. V. Davis, former superintendent of a Free Will Baptist orphanage at Dunn, was en route back to North Carolina from Nevada to stand trial in Harnett county on charges of carnal knowledge of a young orphanage girl.

Davis was arrested in Lovelock, Nev., two weeks ago and Gov. Vail Pittman honored extradition papers forwarded by Gov. R. Gregg Cherry. Davis has been indicted by the Harnett county grand jury.

Back Today Or Tomorrow

Harnett County Sheriff W. E. Salmon said Deputy Sheriff Henry Wells had left Lovelock Sunday with Davis and should reach Dunn today or tomorrow. Tues. 9-16-47

Salmon said the alleged acts occurred several months ago, that Davis was replaced as orphanage superintendent and that he left the state.

Efforts to bring Davis into custody began after the Harnett county grand jury indicted him last month. Two warrants were issued for his arrest, charging him with having carnal knowledge of a blonde, 14-year-old inmate of the orphanage. Officers said the girl told them Davis had been intimate with her at least five times. Tues. 9-16-47

Could Get 30 Years

Davis, reportedly estranged from his wife since last March, came to the orphanage from Gastonia, where he served as pastor of a church. Conviction on the charges could bring a maximum of 30 years imprisonment.

30h(2)

J. Sherard Bryan of Dunn, a member of the orphanage board of directors and orphanage attorney, said Davis "prostituted his high office as the guardian of motherless and fatherless children by degrading a child of tender years."

Assault Case Goes Before N. C. Court

30h(2) S.C. Columbia Record

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Sept. 20—(UP)—A rape case involving four youths and a 19-year-old girl from Black Mountain was scheduled to go before a Buncombe county superior court jury today. Sat.

The girl brought charges of kidnaping and rape against Marvin Stewart, 20, and Clyce Israel, 19, both of Elk Mountain, and Dewey Buckner, 20, and Lonnie Embler, 22, of Alexandria. 9-20-47

The girl accused the four of raping her after Buckner picked her up and drove her a short way out of the city on the pretext of taking her home.

Judge George Patton of Franklin twice denied a request by the defense attorneys to throw the case out of court for lack of evidence.

Attack on Minor Charged to Man

30h(2)

Afro-American

GOLDSBORO, N.C.—A 35-year-old white man who got a 14-year-old girl from her home on the pretext that he wanted her to care for his "sick" wife was charged on October 20 with attempting to criminally attack the girl.

He is Harry J. Cole, himself a father. He and the girl, Gladys Hatch, were found partially clothed in his automobile in a secluded section just outside of the city early on the previous morning.

Knew Something Was Up

The parents of the girl had notified police officers that they had become suspicious after Cole drove off with their daughter in a direction opposite from that of his home about 4 a.m. after asking them to let her take care of his wife. Baltimore, md.

Young Miss Hatch, who worked in the Cole home on several occasions, said that Cole threatened to kill her if she did not submit to his advances. Sat. 11-1-47

Cole, who police said had been drinking, was held without bail pending further investigation, Deputy Sheriff Roy Peruse revealed.

Charge White Man Rapes Girl, 14; Released On $1,000 Bond

30h(2) Sat. 11-1-47.

Defender

By JOHN LeFLORE

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—The rights of a Negro were again subjected to the influence of the ante-bellum Dred Scott case decision when a white man was released here on a $1,000 bond after an alleged attack on a 14-year-old colored girl.

The virtue of teen-age Gladys Hatch was apparently regarded as a matter of insignificance last Tuesday when Henry J. Cole, 35-year-old married white man whom the girl accuses of raping her, was merely made to post the small bail for appearance in Superior court on a charge of attempted rape. "Probable cause" was found at a hearing before Magistrate L. C. Fulghum. Sat. 11-1-47

After-Dark Equality

The child victim of the forced after-dark "social equality" affair testified that Cole, a father, came to her home about 4 a.m. Sunday, and lured her away on the pretext that his wife was ill and wanted her to come over "right away" and do some work.

Gladys said that instead of carrying her to his home Cole drove to a secluded spot outside of town and threatened to kill her if she didn't submit to his advances. She admitted that the white man made her undress to his satisfaction.

The girl had worked for the Cole family on previous occasions and her parents gave their consent for the white man to take her in his car supposedly to his home at the early hour. However, when he drove off in an opposite direction her mother became suspicious and notified law officers.

Policemen Roy Jones and Sam Johnson found the girl and the white man only partially clothed in his automobile in an isolated area outside the city limits.

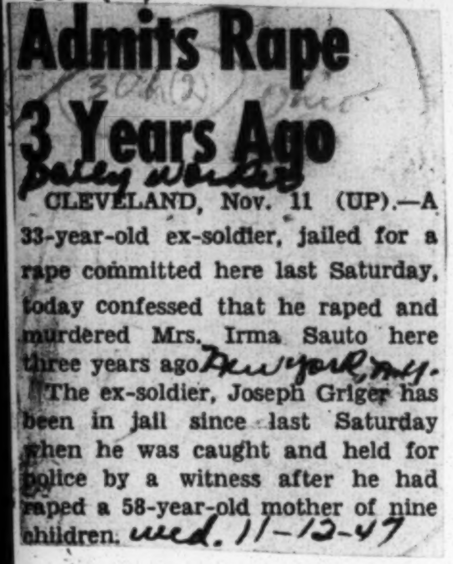
Gladys' parents employed Atty. Hugh Dortch (white), to aid in the prosecution. Cole was not represented at the hearing Tuesday and did not offer testimony. Deputy Sheriff Roy Precise was the only other witness to testify.

The contrast in North Carolina's dual system of justice may be seen in this and the Godwyn "Buddy" Bush case of notorious Rich Square. A furore was caused in that little town when an excited white woman accused Bush of attempting to attack her when he suddenly appeared near a warehouse as she passed the scene. 11-1-47

A mob seized the 22-year-old Negro from the Northampton county jail bent upon lynching him.

Bush's miraculous escape from the would-be-lynchers back in Mg is legend.

30h(2) 1947 Ohio 7670



Admits Rape 3 Years Ago

30h(2) Ohio

Daily Worker

CLEVELAND, Nov. 11 (UP).—A 33-year-old ex-soldier, jailed for a rape committed here last Saturday, today confessed that he raped and murdered Mrs. Irma Sauto here three years ago. New York, N.Y.

The ex-soldier, Joseph Griger has been in jail since last Saturday when he was caught and held for police by a witness after he had raped a 58-year-old mother of nine children. Wed. 11-12-47

7671

Girl, 5, Abducted, Raped, And Brutally Slain

Courier Journal

Sun 5-11-47

30K(2)

Norristown, Pa., May 10 (AP)—Five-year-old Carol Thompson, daughter of a Lansdale, Pa., carpenter, was abducted, raped, and brutally slain late today, Coroner J. W. Rushong reported.

Louisville, Ky.

Pennsylvania State police at near-by Collegeville said the girl's body was found in a well six miles northwest of Norristown an hour after she accepted a ride from a stranger in front of her Lansdale home.

The police immediately issued a teletype message asking all authorities to look for a blond man wearing a striped shirt, no coat, and no hat in a black sedan.

Girl Was Playing In Yard

Sun 5-11-47

Coroner Rushong of Montgomery County, just north of Philadelphia, and State police said their preliminary investigation had produced these details:

Carol was playing in front of her home until about 5:45 p.m. Her brother William, 6, who had been with her, went into the house and told their grandmother, Mrs. Alice Swendt, 'Carol got into an automobile with a man."

Mrs. Swendt and the girl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson, started inquiries immediately. The boy gave a description of the man to police.

About an hour later Carol's body was found six miles away by Marvin Brooks, 13, living on a farm in nearby Worcester Township.

Body Floats In Well

Sun 5-11-47

He said he was taking a walk and looked into an old stone well about 25 feet from the road.

Floating on the surface of the water about 4 feet from the top of the well was the girl's body. Her dress had been torn off, but she still was wearing a red coat.

Police said Carol had been beaten on the head and strangled with a belt from her own dress.

Free Suspect In Child's Rape-Slaying

E M

30K(2)

New York, N.Y.

Montgomery County authorities in Pennsylvania now are looking for a sex maniac who terrorized Norristown women two months ago as the rape-slayer of Carol Ann Thompson, 5. They say they will release Arnold A. Turner, 25-year-old mental institution inmate, brought there from New York for questioning.

Turner said he was in New York City last Saturday when the child was abducted and killed.

The victim's brother, William, 6, who said he had seen the kidnaper, took one look at Turner and said:

Sun. 5-18-47

"That's not the guy."

Gerald Derstine, 16, a neighbor, said Turner was too tall.

Fragments of descriptions offered by five Norristown women who said a man attacked them some weeks ago, always after dark, indicated that man may be the one who took Carol Ann away, police said.

Sun. 5-12-47

Welder Admits Sex Slaying Of Girl, 5

~~The Courier Journal~~

Louisville, Ky.

Sat 8-2-47

Pittsburgh, Aug. 1 (U.P.)—John Henry Fay, 33-year-old welder, confessed today to the sex-slaying of 5-year-old Carol Ann Thompson, Norristown, Pa., whose battered and ravished body was found floating in a well last May 10.

30K(2)

Fay, who was arrested Wednesday after a brutal attack upon a 5-year-old McKeesport child, confessed after 3 hours of questioning by State Police.

Less than an hour after Carol Ann was abducted, her body, clad only in a maroon snowsuit jacket, was found in a well seven miles from her home. Cotton straps from her playsuit were wrapped tightly around her neck.

An autopsy revealed she died of a fractured skull and had been raped. Fay said in his confession that he lured the child into a borrowed automobile, drove five miles to an isolated spot, and attacked her. He said when she screamed he held his hand over her mouth, and "I guess I choked her too long."

8-2-47

30h(2) 1947

South Carolina

7672

Man, 96, Charged In Assault Attempt

Atlanta, Ga.

PICKENS, S. C., May 11—(AP)—Anderson Evatt, 96-year-old Pickens County man, Saturday faced a charge of assault with intent to ravish.

Sheriff W. H. Mauldin said a 13-year-old girl alleged Evatt attempted to attack her Thursday afternoon. Mon. 5-12-47

In applying for bail, A. D. Mann, Jr., Evatt's attorney, requested that it be light because, he explained, his client "is not a well man by virtue of his age and physical condition." Judge J. Robert Martin, Jr., fixed bail at $1,000.

Sumter Record

Assault On Girl, Five, Is Charged

Columbia, S.C. Fri. 8/1/47

KINGSTREE, Aug. 1—A hearing was scheduled this afternoon in the office of the local magistrate concerning an assault upon a five-year-old girl in Greeleyville.

Appearing in connection with the case was a white man who was brought to Kingstree Wednesday night by officers. The crime allegedly took place on Wednesday afternoon. Fri 8/1/..

Three Youths Held In Alleged Attacks Upon Young Girl

MARION, Sept. 5—Charges of statutory criminal assault have been filed against two Lumberton, N. C., youths now held in the Marion county jail. The charges were made in connection with a 14-year-old girl.

The two young men, 23 and 18, were arrested when they were found in company with the girl near the Latta highway five miles north of the city. Another youth, 20, is also held in connection with the case.

White Youth Held For Bedroom Attack On 33-Year Old Mother

Journal and Guide 8/9/47

Norfolk, Va.

Special to Journal and Guide

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Charley Stanley, a white youth, who is alleged to have forcibly entered the home of Mrs. Lucinda Cleveland, 33-year-old mother, Arthurton, a suburb of Columbia, early on the morning of May 25, threatened to kill and beat her as she lay in bed, is being held under bond for the September term of the Court of General Sessions.

Arraigned for a preliminary hearing before Magistrate H. H. Knox following his arrest, the youth reportedly admitted his guilt. He was bound over to the higher court after the judge is reported to have remarked:

"You folks ought to know better than to go around here bothering these darkies. I've told you about these things before. You should leave these people alone. There is nothing else I can do. I must bind you over to the big court."

TAKES AFFIDAVIT

In a sworn affidavit, Mrs. Cleveland asserted that she was attacked by the youth around 4 a. m. while in bed with one of her infant children. Awakened by a peculiar noise, the housewife said she saw a white man standing in the door of her bedroom. He told her not to make an outcry.

"I began to scream," she went on, "and he came over to the bed and jumped on me." Cursing her, the man said, "I am going to kill you," according to the affidavit, and began to beat her on the head and body with his fist. Journal + Guide

The children in the room with her, asleep at the time, were awakened by the struggle and began screaming. Norfolk Va.

The intruder apparently became frightened, and fled. He had gained entrance to the house by cutting a screen over the kitchen window, and releasing the latch. He made his exit by the same route.

The assault took place while the woman's husband an employee of the Columbia Daries, was at work, having left home about 3 a. m. Sat. 8/9/47

SOUNDS ALARM

As her assailant fled, "Mrs. Cleveland ran to the door and yelled and screamed, she asserts. Her sister-in-law, living next door responded to the alarm, and was told what had happened. She went to the dairy and told Mrs. Cleveland's husband the story. He returned home and immediately reported the affair to the county police. Sat. 8/9/47

About a half mile from the scene, Stanley was picked up by the officers, carried back to the house where Mrs. Cleveland identified him as her attacker.

MAGISTRATE'S HEARING

At the magistrate's hearing, Judge Knox is alleged to have wished to charge the youth with housebreaking only, but was pressed by Frederick Robinson, attorney called in by the Cleveland family and who attended the hearing, to make the charge burglary.

Mrs. Cleveland had a black eye and scratches the following morning. The defendant showed scratches on arrest.

The judge would not admit the charge of attempted criminal assault, hinging perhaps on the threat to kill as charged in the affidavit.

HUSBAND AFRAID

Reports state that an effort has been made to get the husband to swear out a warrant for attempted criminal assault or attempted rape, which he had declined to do.

Mrs. Cleveland said she has been approached by the brother of the offender who offered to pay her to change her story concerning the incident and name someone else as the culprit. She was visited a second time, she alleges, by a person or persons unknown who threatened her and who were driven away by neighbors. Sat. 8/9/47

Neighbors, it is reported, shot at the person who came back to get her to change her story. They still fear vengeance and her house is watched by neighbors when her husband goes to work each morning.

Woman's Story of 3 Attempted Attacks Branded False After Week of Terrorism

Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 6-14-47

S.C. Matron Believed Trying to Cover Up After Beating by 2nd of Three 'Husbands'

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A week of terrorism following a white woman's report that a man tried three times to attack her ended here with persons of both races convinced that her story is absolutely false.

A resident of the suburban Edgewood area, she said that the first time she wrenched free of her would-be assailant and fled to the backyard. She called neighbors who surrounded her house, while a detail searched it inch by inch.

Several days later, she reported seeing the man again, and last Monday, she reported that the same man, "of dark skin and about 125 orf 130 pounds, in his mid-twenties," returned to her house, slashed both her arms with a knife and choked her into unconsciousness. Sat. 6-14-47

Witch Hunt On

Each time, the entire community engaged in a witch hunt for the man who was identified only faintly.

After the third report, city and State officers, plus a posse of nearly 100 white men, combed the entire area for two days. Over 100 men were questioned but all were released.

Burn Cross, Touch Off Bombs

However, during the week, acts of terror reached into the heart of the city itself. On Wednesday night, a four-foot cross was lighted in the "Burma Road" section of Gervais St., and two days later "smoke bombs" were touched off in the upper-class Waverly section.

Teen-age white boys, with shotguns, searched many Colonial Heights homes on the pretext of locating the mysterious attacker. Persons going to and from work were searced and their money and other valuables taken by posse members.

Believe 2nd 'Husband' Guilty

Finally, however, even the whites began to doubt the story. Most said that the woman, who is living with her third "husband," is trying to cover up for her second "husband."

According to her neighbors, the second husband, after a long search, finally located her and began the attacks in revenge over her living with another man.

As a result of persistent rumors, the woman is being questioned again and again. Sat. 6-14-47

Even law enforcement officers say that it is unbelievable that the alleged attacker would have returned to the same house in broad daylight knowing that the hunt was on and that he could have so completely vanished under the noses of nearly 1000 men.

S.C. Sheriff Ends Manhunt 'Picnics'

Afro-American Sat. 6-28-47

Disbands Hoodlum Posse on Protest

Baltimore, Md.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP)—Heeding the protest of several ministers and civic groups, Sheriff Alex T. Heis has ended the "fashionable sport" of hunting colored suspects with citizen posses.

He deprived nearly 1000 whites of the privilege, last week, by sending them home when he heard reports of hoodlum acts in colored neighborhoods. The posse had been formed to find a man who allegedly twice assaulted an elderly white woman in Edgewood. Sat. 6-28-47

The sheriff said, after conference with the protesting committee, that future searches in ordinary cases would be conducted by law enforcement officers. Only in emergency cases, he added, would others be called on for aid.

12-Year-Old Boy in Posse

Included in the posse that assisted more than 200 city, county and state peace officers, was a 12-year-old boy who shouldered a shotgun taller than he.

Members of the committee that objected to activities of posses were: Dr. C. L. Hill, the Revs. M. Cox, B. B. Felder, A. L. Peterson, J. P. Reeder, James M. Hinton, L. C. Jenkins, J. C. Spann, H. E. Taylor, S. V. Fowler, Dr. R. W. Mance and W. B. Johnson.

Orangeburg Man Draws Acquittal

Columbia

ORANGEBURG, Sept. 17—(UP)—An Orangeburg county jury today freed a 25-year-old veteran-farmer of charges of criminal assault on his wife's 12-year-old niece. Wed. 9-17-47

Friends Protect Mother Assaulted By White Man

The Black Dispatch

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Sat. 8-9-47

COLUMBIA, S. C. — (ANP) — A Negro mother is being protected here by neighbors against intimidation of friends of the white man who assaulted her on May 25.

Mrs. Lucinda Cleveland, the 33-year-old mother of two children, was awakened that morning around 4:30 by a white youth, who had gained entrance to her home by cutting her window screen. Threatening to kill her, he jumped on her as she lay in bed with one of her children and beat her about the head until he was frightened away by her screams and the children's loud cries.

He fled by the same route he used to enter, she said. Neighbors heard her cries and came to investigate. Her husband, an employe of the Columbia daries, was immediately told about the incident and he reported the attack to local police.

Officers from the sheriff's office soon apprehended a man, who gave his name as Charlie Stanley, about one-half mile from the Cleveland residence. He admitted the crime when arrainged before Magistrate H. H. Knox and was bound over to general sessions court. Sat-8-9-47

"You folks ought to know better than to go around here bothering these darkies," Magistrate Knox is reported to have told Stanley. "I've told you about these things before. You should leave these people alone. There is nothing I can do. I must bind you over to the big court.

Stanley's brother is reported to have tried to pay Mrs. Cleveland to change her story, but she refused his offer. Friends of the accused white man later threatened the Negro mother. Some of them attempted to see her but were fired on by neighbors, who now keep a close watch on her home when her husband leaves for work at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Man Charged In Assault In Anderson

Columbia Record

30 h (2)

Columbia, S.C.

Thurs. 9-4-47

ANDERSON, Sept. 4.—(AP)—The case of Ward Harbin, Anderson man charged with assault with intent to ravish, today was expected to go to a general sessions court jury.

A young woman of the Anderson mill village identified him yetserday as the man who got off a bus with her on Feb. 26 and seized her in an isolated spot as she walked home. She said he ran into the darkness when she screamed.

Father Denies Assault Upon Young Niece

30 h (2) S.C.

Columbia Record

Columbia, S.C.

ORANGEBURG, Sept. 17.—Defense attorneys continued their arguments today in court of general sessions here in the case of a 25-year-old ex-serviceman charged with criminal assault upon his wife's 12-year-old niece. The man denied all charges.

Wed. 9-17-47

The child testified that her uncle-in-law had attacked her in a woods near her home on August 4 while her 21-year-old brother held her. She said that she had resisted for two hours before the assault succeeded. Charges against the brother was continued.

The girl's grandmother testified that she had seen the child engaged in sexual intercourse with a step-uncle last September.

A question as to whether the girl's mother had offered to withdraw charges in exchange for $100 and 40 frying-size chickens was overruled by Judge T. B. Greneker.

The girl evinced little interest in the proceedings in the court.

CHIVALRY FABLE DEBUNKED:

30h(2)

Sex Crimes Expose Truth About South

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

RICHMOND, Va.— (ANP)— It looks as if the late Dr. Charles S. Morris, famous Missionary worker, knew what he was talking about.

He used to say that if all the white men who have molested colored women could be tarred and featherd and burned, it would light up a fire almost encircling the globe.

All along colored men have been portrayed as attackers, sex offenders and sex enslavers. Recently the tide of publicity has changed. Sat. 12-20-47

Press releases on charges of criminal attack, attempted attack and the transporting of women for immoral purposes show white men in the South to be worse sex offenders than slander would depict colored ones.

6 Held in Virginia

Last week, six white residents of Lynchburg, Va., were arrested on chagres of violation and conspiracy towards violation of the Mann (white slavery) Act.

The group was held for trial in the Maryland Federal District court after waiving hearing before U.S. Commissioner Charles D. Cox Jr., of Roanoke.

Arrests of 10 other whites were made in Indiana, Pennsylvania and Maryland by FBI members last week on white slavery charges; and 11 persons were arrested in connection with the transportation of white women to Hagerstown, Md., for purposes of prostitution.

While these Mann Act cases involve commercial prostitution, the trade itself suggests an abnormal sexual and social condition among white males whose sex demands cause efforts to furnish the supply.

Policemen's Cases Recalled

Two white policemen were charged with criminally attacking a colored mother here over a year ago, and one, on conviction, was given a seven-year term. The other one fled the city.

Two white patrolmen were similarly charged in Norfolk, Va., recently with assaulting colored women and were dismissed from the force. Sat. 12-20-47

A white ex-convict, Frank Pat Murphy, 43, was ordered held for the grand jury on Dec. 2 after waiving a preliminary hearing in Portsmouth, Va. police court on charges of felonious assaulting and attacking an eight-year-old girl on the night of Nov. 28.

All Assaults Not Reported

The child was found in a field near the city water department's pumping station that Friday night by Patrolmen M. R. Butler and J. W. Moffatt, who carried her to King's Daughter Hospital for treatment. Sat. 12-20-47

Some insults and assaults to colored women in the South never got into public print because the women do not report to their husbands and sweethearts fearing their intervention would lead to trouble.

The writer knows about such cases from experience.

30h(2) 1947

Tennessee

7674

'White Man Kidnapped, Attempted To Rape My Seven-Year-Old Daughter', Says Trammell

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
Tues. 2-4-47

30

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.—(SNS) Mr. J. W. Trammell, colored automobile repairman of 29 Trewhitt Street, North Chattanooga, related the following story to an Observer reporter:

"I sent my daughter, Delores Del, seven years old and her little brother six years old to a nearby store at 7 p.m. Thursday, January 23, for some articles. Enroute to the store, a white man picked up both of the children in his car and when they arrived at the seore, he sent the little boy into the store and kept the little girl in the car, claiming he would wait until he came out of the store, but when the child came out of the store, he found the car with his sister in it gone.

"My wife and I became somewhat worled because the children were staying so long, she told me to go and find what the trouble was. As I opened the door to go out and look for them, my son came in and told the story of the white man picking them up and carrying them to the store, and while he was inside the store, carried his sister away.

"I called police headquarters and a policeman was dispatched to the scene, I told him what had happened but he did not seem to know what to do so he called police headquarters for help, and two detectives were sent to his rescue. My little boy then related the same story he had told me to the detectives.

"The policemen took my little boy and myself in their car and we began cruising around the section looking for the white man's car. Finally my little boy spotted the car his sister was in. The policemen speeded up and overtook the car that had been pointed out, stopped ie and took my little girl out of the car with the white man, and she told the attempt raped story to all of us.

"The white man was sent to police headquarters and Friday morning, January 24, the case was called. Judge Martin A. Fleming, Jr., was on the bench and said he couldn't give bond in a case like this. He did not ask me any questions and I don't know what disposition has been made of the case, but some of my friends out here say that the man is out on bond.

"With aid of the Colored ministers I have secured a lawyer to go into the case."

Attorney Maurice Weaver, white, when asked a direct question whether he would reoresent the Trammel case, said, "Yes," and without hesitation gave the following information to an Observer reporter that he had found out since being employed Monday, January 27: .

"The white man who attempted the rape is Edward F. Vandergriff Jr.; he is charged with kidnapping and attempted rape, and is out on bond of $5000 in each case. The case was continued by Judge Martin A. Fleming, Jr. from January 24 to February 4. The officers who handled the case were Cardell, Patty and Clinton."

30h(2) 1947

Virginia

7675

Policeman Who Broke Bond In Rape Case Remains at Large

30h(2) Va. Times-Dispatch

Richmond, Va.

Policeman Carl R. Burleson, 27, under a seven-year penitentiary sentence in Hustings Court on a charge of raping a 32-year-old Negro woman, was still at large yesterday after failing to appear in court last Friday for argument on a motion for a new trial.

A general alarm sent out by the Richmond Police Department turned up no clues as to the suspended policeman's whereabouts. In reply to a telegram sent police in Forest City, N. C., Captain O. D. Garton, head of the Detective Bureau, received a message that Burleson had not been found there, but that he would be taken in custody if police located him.

When he became a member of the local police department in November, 1945, Burleson gave the name of a Forest City policeman as a reference. [illegible] 2-25-47

Burleson, a traffic policeman, and Leonard E. Davis, an auxiliary policeman, were convicted by a Hustings Court jury January 18 and each was sentenced for seven years. At that time defense attorneys made a motion that the verdicts be set aside and Judge John L. Ingram set last Friday as the date for hearing arguments on the motion.

Burleson, who was free under a $3,000 bond, failed to appear and a capias was issued for him. Davis was on hand, having been brought from City Jail. Davis was free on bail for a short time following his conviction, but has father, who had signed his bond, turned him over to the court.

Judge Ingram postponed arguments on the motion to set aside the verdicts until March 18. C. B. Harmon, of 1429 Melton Ave., signed Burleson's bail bond and March 4 has been set as the date when Harmon is to be required to show cause why the bond should not be forfeited. [illegible]

Reverse English—Jumps Bail

Dragnet Out for Cop Who Attacked Woman

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Sat. 3-1-47

30h(2) Va.

(By Special Correspondent)

RICHMOND, Va.—Policeman Carl R. Burleson, 27, under a seven-year penitentiary sentence for raping a 32-year-old colored woman, "jumped" his $3,000 bail and the Richmond Police Department has sent out a general alarm for his capture.

Burleson and Auxiliary Policeman Leonard E. Davis, 43, both white, were convicted on Jan. 18 by an all-white jury that ordered both committed to prison for seven years. Their attorneys made motions to set aside the convictions on the ground that they were contrary to law and the evidence.

WHERE'S BURLESON?

Judge John L. Ingram set Feb. 21 as the date for hearing arguments on the motions. When the clock showed it was 2:30 P. M., the time set for the arguments, Burleson did not appear. Davis was present, having been in jail for more than two weeks. His father, Thomas E. Davis, who had posted $3,000 bail for him, surrendered Davis to the court, but gave no reason for not continuing to guarantee his son's appearance in court.

When Burleson's name was called in court he failed to respond and Judge Ingram ordered a capias for him issued at once.

Police quoted Burleson's wife as saying he had gone to Moorsboro, N. C. to talk with his father and try to raise enough money to appeal his case to the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Mrs. Burleson said her husband told her he would be back in Richmond a day or two before he was to appear in court and that she had heard nothing more from him, police said.

ARREST ORDERED

Captain O. D. Garton, head of the Richmond Detective Bureau, immediately sent telegrams to law enforcement officers at Moorsboro and Forest City, N. C., asking them to locate and arrest Burleson, who lived in Forest City prior to coming to Richmond.

A general alarm for Burleson's arrest was sent out on the interstate police teletype.

Judge Ingram continued the motions of defense attorneys until March 18, but said he will hear their arguments sooner if Burleson is found. Sat. 3-1-47

Burleson and Davis were convicted of raping the woman, mother of two children, in a police car on the night of last Oct. 21.

Two Sailors Arrested by Richmond Detectives

Afro-American — Baltimore, Md.

30h(2)

Sat. 7-19-47

Va.

Hotel Lift Kept Moving While White Seaman Assaulted Girl

RICHMOND—Two white sailors are being held by police on charges of a 22-year-old woman who lives in the 900 block E. Leigh St. that one of the men criminally attacked her in an elevator which she was operating in Jefferson Hotel Saturday night. Sat. 7-19-47

The sailors, according to police records, are Thomas Fitzgerald 21, accused of criminally attacking the young woman, and Harry M. Fox, 19, charged with aiding and abetting the attack. Both men are attached to the battleship Midway, stationed at Norfolk.

One Takes Controls

According to the young woman's report to police, the sailors boarded the elevator on the third floor of the hotel and, after she closed the door, one of them grabbed the controls and operated the car up and down while the older of the pair criminally attacked her. Sat. 7-19-47

The man refused to take on passengers who rang for the lift, the woman told officers, and after the attack the pair left the car on the same floor on which they had boarded it and went into their room. She told officers the men entered Room 319.

Police arrested Fox on the scene following the alleged attack, but Fitzgerald was not captured until he returned to his room in the hotel later on that night. The victim did not know the men, but was able to identify them by their room number. Sat. 7-19-47

Sailor Fined $25 on Attack Charge

Afro-American

30h(2) Va.

RICHMOND — Criminal attack charges against Thomas G. Fitzgerald, 21-year-old white sailor, were reduced to assault Friday in police court by Justice Carleton E. Jewett, who fined the tar $25 and costs and dismissed charges against his alleged partner in the crime. Baltimore, Md.

Accused of criminally attacking a 22-year-old woman elevator operator in Jefferson Hotel on July 12, the sailor testified that he "simply smacked" the young woman who accused him of criminal attack, but failed to give a plausible reason for having "smacked" Sat. 7-26-47

The young woman told the court that the sailors, both attached to the aircraft carrier Midway, stationed at Norfolk, got aboard her elevator on the fourth floor of the hotel and that Fitzgerald attacked her criminally while his companion operated the car up and down, refusing to stop for passengers.

After Fitzgerald accomplished his deed, the woman told the court, the two men left the car at the third floor. She watched them as they entered their room and identified them for investigation officers by their room number.

The younger sailor, Harry M Fox, 19, accused of aiding and abetting in the crime, was not called upon to testify, but Justice Jewett accepted the version given by the suspect in the case, fined him $25 and dismissed his alleged partner.

30h(2) 1947

Wisconsin

7676

The News

said.

Wisconsin police officials who for 25 days have sought a trace of amid blood8-year-old Georgia Jean 8-year-old Georgia Jean Weckler, today were alerted for the assailant of a 6-year-old Milwaukee girl, brutally beaten and raped in Milwaukee yesterday.

30h(2)

The mangled 6-year-old, found amid bloodstained debris in an old garage, remained in critical condition today at an emergency hospital, while hundreds of police officers aided by sheriff's deputies carried their search through the city and suburbs.

Meanwhile 50 miles west of Milwaukee, where Georgia Jean vanished from the lane of her farm home May 1, Jefferson County District Atty. Francis Garity said he would discuss with Milwaukee police the possibility that the two cases were related. No inkling of Georgia Jean's fate has been uncovered.

Birmingham Ala.

POLICE IN NEW YORK said that Mrs. Audrey Cropp, 27-year-old wife of Lt. Col. Stanley Cropp, of Ft. Hamilton, reported early today that she had been raped and robbed by two men she and her husband met at a bar and grill last night.

The two men had invited the Cropps to go from Brooklyn to a Manhattan night club. On the return their automobile stalled and they asked the colonel to give it a push. While he was out of the machine they sped off with his wife, police said Mrs. Cropp told them. Mon. 5-26-47

Stopping a few blocks away, one of the pair raped Mrs. Cropp and the other took two wallets containing $52 from her pocketbook, she told police. The pair then put her out of the auto and drove away.

Innocent Plea Filed By Editor In Rape Story

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

30h(2) Fri 11-21-47

Madison, Wis., Nov. 20 (AP)—William T. Evjue, editor of The Madison Capital-Times, pleaded innocent today to charges of violating Wisconsin law in publishing the identity of a rape victim.

Evjue's plea was entered at his arraignment. Preliminary hearing was set for December 2 and the publisher was released on his own $500 bond. Fri. 11-21-47

Evjue said that he assumed "full responsibility" for publication Sunday of the identity of the University of Michigan coed who reported that two men killed her brother-in-law and then raped her. The two men—Buford Sennett and Robert Winslow—have been sentenced to life imprisonment.

P.M. Mon. Nov. 17-47

Wisconsin police were still searching last night for the body of Carl L. Carlson who—according to his sister-in-law, Janet Ann Rosenblatt, 19-year-old co-ed—was slain late Saturday night by two men who then raped her. Associated Press Wirephotos

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Two Youths Sought For Rape, Murder Cornered, Report

The News

30h(2)

Birmingham, Ala.

Pair, Well Armed, Have Taken Refuge In Isolated Farmhouse

Mon. 11-17-47

NEILLSVILLE, Wis., Nov. 17—(AP)—The Clark County sheriff's office said today that two ex-convicts sought on the story of rape and murder told by a University of Michigan co-ed had been cornered in a nisolated farmhouse by a posse arms and men.

Sheriff Ray Kutsche, tipped by an informant, left with about a dozen deputies at 5:30 a.m. today for the farmhouse, which is 24 miles northwest of this city in the heavily wooded Clark County backcountry. 30h(2)

His office said he determined the pair was in the house and that the two were armed. However, because of the nature of the farm and closeness of the woods, Kutsche determined to pen the fugitives in the house rather than try to force an entry. His office said he had asked for FBI forces and for help from other law enforcement officers. Chippewa County Sheriff Ray Thronson left immediately with a force of deputies.

Dane County Dist. Atty. Edwin Wilkie identified the two as Buford Sennett, 22, of Richland Center, and Robert Winslow, 23, of Owen, and added a general alarm had been transmitted fo rtheir arrest. He said both were former inmates of the State Reformatory and Winslow also served a year in state prison for escape from the reformatory.

A, car was stolen from a farm yard at Yuba, Wis., Saturday night and Marshall said he believed the youths may have taken it after abandoning their blood-stained car near Hillsboro. Mon. 11-17-47

Personal papers of one of the youths were found in the abandoned car which also contained some of the co-ed's clothing. No warrant as yet has been issued for the youths, who were identified through photographs.

Wilkie, said the girl, Janet Ann Rosenblatt, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, told the following story:

She came to Madison to see the Wisconsin-Michigan football game and Friday night she and her brother-in-law, Carl L. Carlson, 25, of Superior, Wis., started to hitchhike to his home at Badger Village, University Housing Center, about 35 miles northwest of Madison.

Two men offered them a lift and while they were riding one of them shot Carlson. While he lay dead in the car, both men raped her. They drove around for 11 hours and the girl said she believed they threw Carlson's body in the Blue River. She escaped from the men when the car stalled on a hill near Hillsboro.

GIVE UP IN KIDNAP-KILLING

30h(2)

Times

Two Ex-Convicts Trapped by Posse Identified by Co-ed

New York, N.Y.

NEILLSVILLE, Wis., Nov. 17 (AP)—Two young ex-convicts who for twelve hours had kept at bay and armed posse hunting them for the alleged raping of a girl student at the University of Michigan and the slaying of her brother-in-law, surrendered meekly late today. Their hostages, a farmer, his wife and two sons, were unharmed.

With their hands in the air, the pair walked out of a barn in north central Wisconsin and surrendered.

Robert Winslow, 23 years old, of Owen, and Buford Sennett, 22, of Richland Center, both former state reformatory inmates, had threatened to "shoot it out."

They were identified from photographs by Miss Janet Ann Rosenblatt of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, as the men who had killed Carl L. Carlson, 25, and attacked her during an automobile ride Friday night. Tue. 11-18-47

Second Slain Victim's Body Sought In River

News

Birmingham, Ala.

BLUE RIVER, Wis., Dec. 16—(AP)—Searchers planned to resume dragging the Wisconsin River today in an attempt to find the body of Georgia Jean Weckler, 8, after a life term convict at Waupun State Prison confessed he and a companion killed the child last May and dumped her body into the stream.

30h(2)

Buford Sennett, 22-year-old confessed and sentenced rapist-slayer, yesterday pointed out the spot where he said he had thrown the drugged and bullet-riddled body of the blue-eyed Fort Atkinson farm girl. Tue. 12-16-47

It was the same spot where last month Sennett had tossed the body of Carl Carlson, a University of Wisconsin student, into the river.

After Sennett stood on the bridge for 40 minutes yesterday aiding searchers he was returned to the prison where he made a confession Saturday to Francis Garity, Jefferson County district attorney.

Last month Sennett had pointed out the spot in the river where he had tossed the trussed and weighted body of Carlson, 25-year-old young medical student. Carlson's body was recovered, and Sennett and Robert Winslow, 24, were sentenced to life terms for killing him. Carlson's sister-in-law, a University of Michigan co-ed, was raped several times. Tue. 12-16-47

Winslow was cleared of any connection with the Weckler case, Garity said. News

Sennett, whimpering that "at no time did I assault the little girl, Mr. Garity," said in a statement that a "friend" had accompanied him in kidnaping the Weckler child but he refused to identify him. 12-16-47

Sennett's confession related that his companion had stayed overnight with the child in the woods near his home at Richland Center and the following day he found the little girl had died of an overdose of sleeping tablets. Then the two weighted the body, drove to Blue River and threw it in the river.

Convicted Slayer Clears Up Mystery Of Missing Girl

30h(2)

Advertiser

Montgomery Ala.

BLUE RIVER, WIS., Dec. 15.—(AP)—A whimpered confession from a man now serving a life sentence for one savage orgy of lust and murder Monday solved the seven-month search for little Georgia Jean Weckler and united two vicious crimes with the same killer and the same local.

Buford Sennett 22-year-old petty thief whose romantic impulses tended toward a pattern of violence and sudden death, detailed how he flung the drugged, bullet-pierced body of the winsome Fort Atkinson farm child from a bridge here—the same spot where last month he pitched the body of Carl Carlson into the current.

Sennett was brought from state prison at Waupun to this Grant County village, some 70 miles west of Madison, Monday afternoon to aid searchers after release of his confession, which was obtained by Jefferson County District Attorney Francis Gariey at the prison Saturday night. After 40 minutes at the bridge he was returned to Waupun. 12-23-47

George Lehman, a diver who began to fight the racing, ice-fringed current of the Wisconsin River tributary Sunday, had said earlier that "I know there's something but I can't quite reach it." 12-16-47

The trussed, weighted body of Carl Carlson, young father and medical student at the University of Wisconsin, was taken from the water at the opposite side of the bridge last month, also at Sennett's direction. He and Robert Winslow, 24, were sentenced to life terms for Carlston's slaying, which took place during a night long orgy that also saw Carlson's sister-in-law, a University of Michigan co-ed, criminally attacked repeatedly. Tue.

The two killers were trapped in an isolated farmhouse and surrendered after a 15-hour silent siege by riflemen.

Garity said Winslow, who previously admitted shooting two other girls in a futle abduction attempt last Summer, had cleared himself of complicity in the Weckler case in a lie detector test.

In his statement, which came abruptly after several weeks of grilling had found him reiterating that "I don't like law enforcement officers," Sennett claimed a "friend" had accompanied him in the Weckler kidnapping, but refused to identify him.

The killer, larding his statement with reassurances "at no time did I assault the little girl, Mr. Garity," told how he and his confederate, after coaxing the eight-year-old tyke into their car, discussed giving up their plan for kidnapping and ransom and actually returned to the Weckler farm home near Fort Atkinson to release Georgia Jean, but then reconsidered and drove off again.

"Mr. Garity, she did not cry at any time, but she did ask 'when are you going to take me home,'" Sennett said.

After stealing the little girl from the lane of her home, Sennett said they returned to Richland Center, his home, where his confederate remained overnight with the child in the woods. She had been given two sleeping tablets, he said. He himself continued to his home in the city, where that night he had a "date with a girl friend."

When he returned to the woods, he found the little girl dead of an overdose of drugs.

"You will find, Mr. Garity, that she was shot," he told the district attorney, "but I know she died from the sleeping pills."

The two men then weighted the body, drove to Blue River and hurled it over the bridge rail, Sennett concluded.

4,715 Lynchings In U. S. Since 1882

30i

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

TUSKEGEE — (ANP) — Records compiled by the department of research here at Tuskegee Institute and gathered from other sources show conclusively that mob law is one of the oldest and most menacing problems in the South. Sat. 6-14-47

From 1882 to 1946, 4,715 persons were lynched in the United States. Of the 4,708 lynched between 1882 and 1944, 1,291 were white and 3,417 were colored, according to most reliable sources. There was only one lynching in 1945, according to Tuskegee, but mob rule picked up the following year when six persons were lynched. Sat. 6-14-47

Legal Lynching Now Substituting for Mobs

30i Mon. 8/4/47

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

In its 1947 report on lynchings in America the Tuskegee Institute notes that there has been a decrease in deaths by mob action during the past 10 years. In that period the Alabama Negro college states that 273 lynchings have been prevented by officials or citizens as against 43 instances where the victim died at the hands of the mob.

The report does not show, though, what happened to those who were "saved" from the intended extra-legal executioneers. Indeed, for most of us these intended victims of southern mobs receded into a sort of oblivion, and only once in a great while were we given some information as to the final outcome before the bar of justice.

In those rare cases in which the commercial press shows an interest which carries further than the front porch of the court house "justice" for the Negro in court means his swift conviction and sentencing. What else could "justice" mean for a Negro accused by a white person? Mon. 8/4/47

BROWN'S CASE

Take the case of Eddie Brown, Jr. On last June 10, at Carrollton, Ga., he was "saved" from a mob of white men who intended lynching him for the alleged murder of a white man. Brown was rushed to Atlanta for "safe keeping" and his trial set for the court in Carrollton.

When a little while later he was brought to Carrollton for trial the streets before the courthouse were filled with the same persons who had formed the mob from which he was "rescued." And undoubtedly other members of the mob were on the jury which decided the case. It took just six minutes to find him guilty of murder and sentence him to death.

At least in Brown's case, the question arises: Was he tried in a court of justice, or was he legally lynched?

WHAT HAPPENED

In another case in Alabama where a 19-year-old Negro was "saved" from a mob for allegedly attempting to rape an elderly white woman, the court in three minutes found him guilty and handed him a 20-year sentence.

And, of course, the southern law enforcement agencies in prosecuting Negroes expose the rotten character of southern justice. All that is needed to convict a Negro before a southern court is the word of a white person. Mon. 8/4/47

But there have been 273 thwarted lynchings in the past ten years. Now if you thwart a lynching you have got to be close enough tell who the mob members are. And yet law enforcement officers have not convicted one lynching in all that time.

30i

Six minutes to sentence a Negro to death as he protests his innocence. Years of toleration to actual and "attempted" murderers.

It is clear that more than good reports on lynching is needed to give the Negro people in the South the protection all governments are supposed to give citizens.

Note From the South

30i San Diego, Calif. — Journal

The Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, has kept a tabulated record on lynchings and attempted lynchings for 65 years past, and has just reported on how the current score runs. . . . The Tuskegee report reveals that for every lynching perpetrated in recent times, there is a record of six lynchings prevented. Mon. 8-4-47

That means, according to the Institute, a record of six very real and serious lynching attempts prevented—prevented by courageous action—for every single instance of a lynching perpetrated.

That is a record to be noted particularly, it seems to us, by Californians, for the reason that Californians are so often either "neutral" or complacent in this matter of racial tensions. . . . We Californians are neither Northerners nor Southerners, and we are affected by no strong tradition in our attitude toward the Negro. We are particularly apt to ignore the great courage of people in the South who stand up for civilized American convictions in the face of murderous flare-ups. Mon. 8-4-47

The Tuskegee record reports a fact that ought to enhance respect for the South and the people of the South. . . . It is the fact that mob violence in the South is the exception, not the rule. It is the fact that the headlines do an injustice to the averages. And it is the fact that this particular form of justice is defended in the South with a courage which is not often required in this newer part of the country.

Chicago Defender

Tuskegee Figures Show 1946 Tops Lynch Record

30i Alabama

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—The rising tide of lynchings in the country was statistically shown here recently with official tabulation of lynch records for the past five years. Sat 1-4-47

The number of lynchings in 1946 was six—five more than in 1945, and representing a steady rise since 1942. Chicago Defender

The high of six lynchings for the year did not include four borderline cases on which sufficient evidence has so far not been collected. Also there is positive evidence that 17 lynchings were narrowly prevented during 1946, bringing the number of actual and near-murders to 27.

Six lynchings in 1946 represent four more than in 1944; three more than in 1943, and one more than in 1942. 1-4-47

In the 17 cases where murder was prevented, credit goes in 14 of them to officers of the law, Sat 1-4-47 while in the three others, persons unconnected with the law saved the intended victims. Sixteen of these potential murders were in the Southern states, one of them in the North, and the total number of those saved was 22, one of them white. Sat 1-4-47

All of the six persons lynched were Negro citizens and the alleged charges against them were, in all cases but one, very minor crimes. One of the murdered men was reported to have stolen a saddle, but the crime was later confessed by two other persons. Three were the innocent victims of the mob at Monroe, Ga., accused of nothing at all but killed because they were riding in the same car with the fourth victim accused of having stabbed a white man who recovered. The sixth victim was charged with attempting to break into a house, but was later released from jail.

Georgia led the murder roster with four lynchings to its discredit, while Mississippi and Louisiana blemished their state histories with one each.

LYNCHING FAILURES MEAN PROGRESS.

30i Des Moines Register

The most encouraging thing about the lynching figures for 1947 is not the total—one, equal to the all-time low—but the number of lynchings which did not come off.

Tuskegee Institute now keeps track of that figure, too, and here it is: 1-6-48 Edi

Prevented by law officers ..	24
Prevented by escape	4
Prevented by citizens	2
Left for dead but survived..	1
	—
TOTAL FRUSTRATED LYNCHINGS	31

1-6-48

The total of lynchings that did come off has been down to a handful for several years now, and statistically the difference between one and five or six does not signify. Tuskegee conservatively gives the 1947 total as one, but notes six borderline cases which may or not have been lynchings. The compilers of the figures just don't have enough information.

Des Moines Register

But it means a good deal that so many more attempted lynchings fail than succeed.

U. S. Has One Lynching In Year; 31 Prevented

30i

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31 (U.P.)—Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research said today there was one lynching in the nation in 1947. The report said that at least 31 lynchings had been prevented, 24 by officers of the law. In 1946 the department listed six lynchings. There was one lynching in 1945, two in 1944 and three in 1943.

One Lynching Listed in '47

P.M. New York

Thur. 1-1-48

30i

By United Press

TUSKEGEE, Ala.

Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research said there was one lynching in the Nation in 1947. The report said that at least 31 lynchings had been prevented, 24 by officers of the law.

In 1946, the department listed six lynchings. There was one lynching in 1945, two in 1944, and three in 1943. 1-1-48

The 1947 victim was Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro of Greenville, S. C. Accused of stabbing and robbing a white taxi-driver, Earle was taken from jail by a mob. After being shot to death, his body was mutilated by slashing. Twenty-eight taxicab operators charged in connection with Earle's death were freed by a jury.

The report listed six borderline cases, which were not included as lynchings because sufficient evidence had not been obtained.

During 1947, a total of 44 persons were indicted as participatnts in lynchings or attempted lynchings. There were 44 acquittals.

U. S. Lynch Toll . . . 4 Lives a Year

PM 3-3-48

30i

TUSKEGEE, Ala.

At least one lynching has occurred in the U. S. A. annually since 1882, records at Tuskegee Institute showed today.

The peak year was 1892 when 231 were counted, including 69 white and 162 Negro lynchings. Only single lynchings were reported for 1945 and 1947.

Since World War I, the records showed, lynchings have fallen off substantially. They have averaged less than a dozen a year since 1924, with Negro victims in most cases. New York,

Prior to that lynchings averaged around 60 a year. N.Y

From 1936 through last year the Nation's lynching toll averaged four a year. 3-3-48 Wed

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Only One Died By Lynching Last Year

1947 301

Fri.

Courier-Journal 2-27-48

Louisville, Ky.

Tuskegee, Ala., Feb. 26 (U.P.)—Tuskegee Institute's carefully compiled 65-year record of U. S. lynching cases furnishes evidence for both sides in the current battle on President Truman's proposed civil-rights program.

Tuskegee's division of records are Reports lists 4,717 lynchings from 1882 through 1947.

But, during the 1937-47 period, there were only 44 lynchings, with 320 reported lynch attempts prevented by police, City officials, citizens, and escaping victims. One lynch victim recovered, after being left for dead by a mob. The figure included 42 Negroes and two whites. 2-27-48

Of the over-all total who have met death by mob violence, Tuskegee records say that 3,426 were Negroes, 1,291 whites. Fri.

The figure has fallen steadily downward, with the exception of 1946, when six persons were lynched. In 1901 there were 130 lynchings. That figure never has been approached since, The death tolls for the last 13 years include: 1935—20; 1936—8; 1937—8; 1938—8; 1939—3; 1940—5; 1941—4; 1942—5; 1943—3; 1944—2; 1945—1; 1946—6; 1947—1.

"As the number of lynchings in the U.S. has grown fewer, so has the number of those unsuccessfully attempted. The vigilance of law-enforcement officials and the intelligent action of numbers of private citizens have kept many intended victims from being put to death," the division's annual report for 1947 said.

30i 1947

7678

Lynching Record for 1947

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal:

Louisville, Ky. Jour. 1-4-48

30i

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, I find that one person was lynched during the year. This is five less than the number six for 1946; equivalent to the number one for the year 1945; one less than the number two for the year 1944, and two less than the number three for the year 1943. The lynch victim was Willie Earle, a 24-year-old Negro, charged with stabbing and robbing a white taxi driver. He was taken from jail by a mob, which mutilated his body with knife and bullet wounds. The State in which the lynching occurred was South Carolina. Louisville, Ky. Sun. 1-4-48

There were six borderline cases which are not included in the total number of lynchings for 1947 because, to date, sufficient evidence concerning them has not been obtained.

There were at least 31 instances in which lynchings were prevented—24 by officers of the law; four by persons who saved themselves from mobs; two by persons not officers of the law, and one instance in which the victim, left as dead by the mob, survived bullet wounds. Of these instances, 27 were in the Southern States and four were outside of the South. A total of 39 persons—33 Negroes and six whites—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

During the year, 44 persons were under indictment as participants in lynchings or attempted lynchings, and 44 were freed.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala.

1947 SAW ONE LYNCHING

Times 1-2-48

Tuskegee Institute Reports 31 Were Prevented, Saying 39 Lives

New York N.Y.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1 (AP)—One lynching and "six borderline cases" during 1947 were listed by Tuskegee Institute today in its annual report. 30i

President F. D. Patterson of the institute said the lives of thirty-nine persons were saved in "at least thirty-one instances in which lynchings were prevented." Of these, twenty-seven were in Southern states and the other four were outside the South. Jour. 1-2-48

"The lynch victim," the report said, "was Willie Earle, a 24-year-old Negro, charged with stabbing and robbing a white taxi driver. He was taken from jail by a mob, which mutilated his body with a knife and bullet wounds. The state was South Carolina."

The single lynching compared with six reported in 1946, one in 1945, two in 1944 and three in 1943.

The report said the "six borderline cases are not included in the total number of lynchings for 1947 because sufficient evidence concerning them has not been obtained."

"During the year," the report said, "forty-four persons were under indictment as participants in lynchings or attempted lynchings, and forty-four were freed."

Only One Lynching Reported In '46

Advertiser Montgomery Ala.

1947 ~~30i~~ Sun. 1-1-48

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported Wednesday only one lynching during the past year as compared with six in 1946.

The annual report released by President F. D. Patterson said, however, six "borderline cases" were not included because "sufficient evidence concerning them has not been obtained."

"The lynch victim was Willie Earle, a 24-year-old Negro, charged with stabbing and robbing a white taxi driver," the report said. "He was taken from jail by a mob which mutilated his body with a knife and bullet wounds. The state in which the lynching occurred was South Carolina." Advertiser

Borderline cases were listed as: "Joe Nathan Roberts, at Sardis, Ga.; Red Marks, Tobe Marks, Joe Wickerson, and an unnamed Negro, at Oakwood, Fla.; and Charlie (Bud) Smith, in or near Angier, N. C." Montgomery Ala.

The report continued: Jan.

"There were at least 31 instances in which lynchings were prevented—24 by officers of the law; four by persons who saved themselves from mobs; two by persons not officers of the law; and one instance in which the victim, left as dead by the mob, survived bullet wounds. 1-1-48

"Of these instances, 27 were in Southern states, and four were outside the South. A total of 39 persons — 33 Negroes and six whites — were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs."

Lynching Record

The Times-Picayune

Congressional politicians and Communist propagandists can be very noisy about slight or imagined breaches of good conduct in the South, but the lynching record for 1947 just about reduces them to a starvation fare. One lynching occurred, according to the records of Tuskegee Institute, and the alleged participants went to trial for it. 30i

This one instance of death at the hands of a mob was a little out of the run of ordinary lynchings. A South Carolina Negro, accused of robbing and fatally stabbing a taxi-driver, was supposedly yanked from jail and shot to death by a group including angered taxi-drivers. Twenty-eight defendants were tried and acquitted. Editorial

The institute lists what it holds were 31 lynching attempts, all of which were foiled by one circumstance or another. Mostly officers of the law intervened to prevent the violence. Twenty-seven of the attempts, the report notes, were in the South and four elsewhere. Lafayette Square Washington, D.C.

Naturally the institute cannot be sure of wh[illegible] would have occurred in all cases had it not been for the police interventions. But the mere fact that officers are credited with stopping nearly all the mob threats supplies the logical answer to the anti-lynching bills frequently introduced in Congress, to require federal agents to go about the country looking for evidence that local officials fail to do their duty with respect to lynching mobs. 1-1-48. Thu.

The record won't stop the political meddlers and opportunists, nor the pink-tinged organizations with a professed "mission." But certainly it will not make their activities any easier to explain or to defend.

Another Victory for the Mob Against the Court House

San Antonio Express

For 1947, Tuskegee Institute, that carefully has kept the record on lynch-murder in the Nation through more than a half-century past, turns in an encouraging report: San Antonio, Texas

The one proved lynching during the year occurred in Greenville (South Carolina) last February. There a mob of cab-drivers stormed the jail, seized Willie Earle—a young Negro awaiting trial on charges of having stabbed and robbed a cabman—mutilated him with a knife and shot him to death. Edi. 30i

For that brutal outrage against humanity, against law and order and against the State's dignity, the grand jury promptly indicted 28 mob-participants. The court duly brought the men to trial. Governor Thurmond, the clergy, the press and enlightened opinion throughout the State had demanded that the perpetrators be tried and punished. 1-9-48-Th.

The prosecutor and his assistants did their utmost to convict the defendants. When all the evidence was in, Judge Martin admonished the jurors that they were bound by their oaths to render a verdict upon the proved facts, and not to allow "so-called racial issues" to enter into the deliberations. Nevertheless, the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty." San Antonio Express

Whenever trial juries shall reach the point of willingness to convict mob-members on murder charges, comments The Commercial Appeal (Memphis), "there will be no more lynching." 30i Edi. 1-9-48-Th.

Perhaps that is being too optimistic. Convictions and executions have not stopped other kinds of murder. However, when an entire State reacts as South Carolina officialdom and decent citizenry reacted to the Greenville atrocity, lynch-murder is on the way out there. San Antonio, Tex.

The Blot on the South's Escutcheon

Tuskegee Institute, down in Alabama, founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881, keeps a record of all lynchings and attempted lynchings and reports its findings at the end of each year. During 1947 only one person was lynched, but the fact that there were six borderline cases, while there were at least 31 instances in which lynchings were prevented, shows that this blot on the escutcheon of the South still remains to be eradicated. 1-6-48-Tue. Hoboken, N.J. 30i Edi.

The lynch victim was Willie Earle, a 24-year-old Negro, charged with stabbing and robbing a white taxi driver. He was taken from jail by a mob, which mutilated his body with knife and bullet wounds, Tuskegee reports. This lynching occurred in South Carolina. Jersey Observer

As for the borderline cases, these are not included in the total number of lynchings for 1947 because, to date, sufficient evidence concerning them has not been obtained, it is stated. In the 31 cases where lynchings were prevented, officers of the law intervened in 24, in 4 the persons saved themselves from mobs, 2 were rescued by persons not officers of the law, and in one instance the victim, left as dead by the mob, survived bullet wounds. Of these instances, 27 were in southern states and 4 were outside of the South. The report concludes with the statement that during the year 44 persons were under indictment as participants in lynchings or attempted lynchings and all were freed. This latter is not emphasized, though well it might be, for here, as we see it, there is told a story all its own. Jersey Observer

One of the most noticeable features of these annual reports from Tuskegee is that they are invariably given merely as statistics for the record, and nothing more. Tuskegee obviously believes in letting the facts speak for themselves. Nothing more should be needed to point that there are still those in the South who do not hesitate to take the law into their own hands when the accused happens to be a Negro. 1-6-48-Tue.

In recent years various attempts have been made in Congress to enact an anti-lynching law, but the Senate has invariably wound up in a deadlock over the issue. Albert W. Hawkes, New Jersey's senior Senator, seeking to break this leadlock, is fathering a bill which would impose fines up to $5,000 and five years in jail for officials who neglect to take all possible precautions against lynching. 30i

Previous attempts to enact such a preventive measure won approval in the House, only to be stymied in the Senate through filibusters or threats along that line by southern colleagues. "No good American can condone mob violence or denial of due process of law," says Senator Hawkes. It is to be hoped he will be able to convince those "Southern Gentlemen" who would make an exception in the case of any accused Negro. Hoboken, N.J. Edi.

PROGRESS OF JUSTICE

1947 30i Edi.

The slow and painful process of seeing that all Americans receive the equal justice that is guaranteed them by the Constitution and by our common law made progress in 1947. The Tuskegee Institute, in its annual report on lynchings, records that last year there was only one clear-cut case of the invocation of Lynch Law in the South. That was the case of Willie Earle, the young South Carolina Negro who was taken from a jail and killed by a band of white taxicab drivers in Greenville. He was accused of stabbing to death one of their fellow drivers. Times, New York, N.Y.

The record for 1947 thus ties that of 1945, when there was only one authenticated case. The number in 1946 was six. The worst year of the last two decades was 1933, when forty-two accused, but not convicted, defendants in rape and murder cases were killed by men who put themselves above the law. The record since 1938 has been: 1939, two; 1940, five; 1941, three; 1942, five; 1943, two; 1944, two; 1945, one; 1946, six; 1947, one. Sat. 1-3-48

The reason for this declining rate is that not only does education appear to be making progress but that more and more Southern officials, and especially law-enforcement officers, are living up to their oaths of office and protecting Negro prisoners from lynch mobs, often at the risk of their own lives. Last year, the Tuskegee report says, no fewer than thirty-nine persons were saved from death by the prompt and courageous action of public officials in defying would-be lynchers. In the one lynching, too, that of Willie Earle, twenty-eight men were arrested and tried. They were freed by an all-white jury of their peers, it is true, but at least they were brought to the bar of justice. Times, New York, N.Y.

It has not been too many years since a Southern official took his political life in his hands if he attempted either to stop a lynching, arrest the lynchers or even denounce the crime. That is true no longer. Such men as Governors Thurmond of South Carolina and Cherry of North Carolina, former Governor Arnall of Georgia and many men in lesser positions now know that they have the support of all the decent people when they preach the doctrine of equal justice for all men regardless of race or religion or previous condition of servitude. 1-3-48

One lynching a year is one too many. But the trend is downward and this means that the progress of justice is upward. Americans can face the world with a clearer conscience in 1948 than they could twelve months ago.

One 1947 Lynching

30i Edi.

Tuskegee institute in its annual report for 1947 lists only one lynching and six "borderline cases." Record, Columbia, S.C.

The one lynching was undoubtedly a lynching—the lynching of Willie Earle, 24-year-old Negro, taken from the Pickens county jail by a Greenville mob in South Carolina and killed.

Twenty-eight men accused of the lynching were indicted and tried in Greenville. All were acquitted and with their acquittal South Carolina lost its chance to purge itself of the shame that the Greenville mob had brought to it. Sat. 1-3-48

It had been years since South Carolina had had a lynching and be it said to South Carolina's credit that it did not attempt to escape the blame for the slaying of Willie Earle nor to excuse it. The state made a genuine effort to bring the men responsible for the crime to justice and it made clear to all would-be lynchers that it would not tolerate mob murder any more than any other form of slaughter. The Greenville lynching did not set off any chain reaction in South Carolina.

Listed by Tuskegee as "borderline" cases were one in Georgia, four in Florida and one in North Carolina. The institute does not have evidence enough to classify these as lynchings, even by its own rather restricted definition of a lynching.

And the inclusion of this "borderline case" category suggests that Tuskegee is getting to be a bit more judicial and scientific in its attitude toward lynching. There have been included in Tuskegee's reports heretofore as lynchings cases which might have been murder cases, but which were not lynchings by any definition of the term. Sat 1-3-48

So had that Greenville mob stopped to think first—and the members of it have probably done a lot of thinking since then—or had the law enforcement officers of Greenville and Pickens been alert enough to move Earle to a place of safety last year could have been a year of no lynchings in the country, a fact that would have upset some of the Russian propagandists.

Left Alone, South Will End Lynching

Advertiser, Montgome

The Memphis Commercial Appeal

THAT there was but one bona fide lynching in the South during 1947 will encourage a vast and decent majority of Southerners who oppose mob violence in any form. It does not, however, mean that the fight to eliminate lynching is nearly won. It isn't. 30 i Edi,

The 1947 total was the same as in 1945, but in 1946 there were six lynchings, so the total doesn't tell the real story after all. If mobsters had had their way, there would have been at least 32 lynchings last year. The real key to the lynching picture lies in the number of prevented instances. They totalled 31.

According to the Records and Research Department of Tuskegee Institute, famous Negro college, there were at least 31 instances in which lynching efforts were foiled—24 by law enforcement officers; two by persons not officers of the law; four by victims who succeeded in saving themselves, and one through recovery of the victim from bullet wounds after his assailants had thought him dead.

The lynching record will not and cannot be satisfactory until not even one instance of attempted mob violence occurs.

Sat, 10-12-47

ON THE progress side of the ledger there are two very encouraging factors in the 1947 record. One is represented by the number of instances in which law enforcement officers had high enough regard for duty to prevent lynchings and the other by the changed attitude of courts, prosecutors and grand juries.

There is nothing creditable in a record which shows the freeing of the exact number of persons indicted for engaging in or attempting mob violence, but the very fact that 44 such persons were indicted indicates a very definite awakening of prosecutive and judicial responsibility in such cases.

This was especially exemplified in the case of the one known lynch victim, a South Carolina Negro who was taken from a jail cell and killed by a group of taxicab drivers. No fault can be found with the manner in which the processes of justice operated up to the point where decision rested with a trial jury. Members of the mob were quickly apprehended, there was most vigorous prosecution, and the attitude of the judge was meticulously fair and correct. It was when it got into the hands of the trial jury that the case broke down. When trial juries reach a point of willingness to convict lynch mobsters of murder there will be no more lynchings.

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

THE PERFORMANCE of Southern law enforcement officers in preventing lynchings is impressive. The record indicates that more and more is there realization that the law enforcement officer has no higher responsibility than that of protecting his prisoner, and thus law and order and justice itself—a recognition that lynchings is a double crime—against the individual and against justice. An explanation of much of this, no doubt, stems from the fact that better type men are seeking law enforcement posts and that a greater degree of training is available for those who really want to fit themselves for their jobs. Sat 1-10-48

This, too, can be said of the 1947 lynching record. It will give no comfort to South-haters and the professional and political agitators for a Federal anti-lynching statute. What has been accomplished has been done without any gratuitous outside aid, and it is all the proof needed that, left alone, the South will win the anti-lynching fight which it initiated for itself. 30 i Edi 1947

There were 20 lynchings in 1935. Since 1936 there have been eight or less each year. In 1901 the total was 130. Last year it was one. That is progress! Ultimately there will be none.

The 'Best' Anti-Lynching Record

Tuskegee Institute has made its annual, carefully and accurately conceived, lynching report for the past year. Constitution

It reports one lynching and six borderline cases. 30 i Edi. 1947

It also reports that in at least 31 instances lynchings were prevented by law officers and that 39 persons were saved in these preventions. Atlanta, Ga.

This is the "best" anti-lynching record in our history and bears out the prediction made here before that education and an aroused public opinion are the best anti-lynch laws the nation may have. 1-10-48 Sat.

The record of lynching reveals that Willie Earle, the South Carolina Negro charged with stabbing a white taxi driver, was the one definite lynching case of 1947. In 1946 there were six lynchings, four in Georgia, in 1945 one, two in 1944, and three in 1943. Certainly it cannot be said that lynching is on the increase. It can be said that prevention greatly is increasing. 1-10-48 Sat.

In this connection it may be well to point out that while lynching is the greater crime, because it involves killing in which the race or religion of the person killed plays a prominent part in the decision to kill, the felony record of the country as a whole is growing. The number of all types of felonies for the nation averages between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 per year. Of that number, murder and manslaughter (in which negligence is not a factor) total about 7,000; rapes over the nation total about 10,000, and robberies by force about 50,000. Atlanta Ga. Constitution

It is time public opinion became aroused about that factor of our criminal record. Meanwhile, let us continue to make lynching so unpopular a crime that 1948 may pass without a single instance of this most unpardonable type of violence.

Fewer Lynchings

The News Birmingham Ala

Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynching is heartening. During all of 1947 there was, according to the institute's findings, only one clear-cut case. In 1946 there had been six, one in 1945, two in 1944, and three in 1943. 30 i Sat. Edi 1-3-48

While good citizens wish that not one person would ever unlawfully be deprived of his life, it is hard to see how passing a federal law against lynching would help to reduce the number of instances. Other federal laws are violated, and frequently. 1-3-48

It is unfortunately true that no person charged with lynching has recently been convicted of the crime. In certain outstanding cases it has seemed to the whole country that justice was flagrantly defied by local juries. Like other Southerners, we were disturbed by those cases and by the obloquy which they brought upon the region. But we should like to submit the fact that prosecution before a federal jury rather than a state jury is no assurance that the verdict would have been any different. One case tried last year before a federal court in South Carolina acquitted men of depriving another of his civil rights on evidence that looked pretty conclusive of guilt to a lot of disinterested outsiders. The News 1-3-48

It is gratifying indeed that lynching has been reduced to a very few instances. Sat 1-3-48 But we would be happier if there were no lynching at all anywhere. The way to bring about so felicitous a state of affairs is through education of all the people in all sections and by changing the outlooks of the whole population from school children to the ancient gaffers by the fireplace. That process is long, but it is under way and eventually it will work. Birmingham, Ala.

30j 1947

7680

What One Woman Can Do To Prevent Lynching

The Tattler
Jacksonville, Fla.
30j
Sat. 3-8-47

1. She can study the available facts about lynchings and be prepared to use the information at any time.
2. She can present her information to missionary societies and clubs, applying her remarks to the purposes and programs of each group. Sat. 3-8-47
3. She can secure signatures of the members of the organizations to which she speaks to a pledge or resolution against lynching.
4. She can ask each organization to appoint one member to serve with her in this work to combat lynching.
5. She can go to the Court House, accompanied by one or more members of her committee, and can discuss with the sheriff, judge, and other officers, the problem of lynching and its prevention. She can ask for the signatures of the officials to a special pledge or resolution against lynching. The Tattler
6. She can visit the local newspaper and inform the editor of the work undertaken by the women, and can ask for the cooperation of the local press.
7. She and the members of her committee can talk to the ministers of the community. She can plan with them some specific projects of education through the churches and Sunday Schools, and young people's organizations.
8. She and her committee can open the way for speakers before the local men's civic, commercial and service clubs. Jacksonville, Fla.
9. She and her committee can work out in advance the steps to be taken in case a situation arises which might result in a lynching—that is, what officials or other persons are to be contacted and what agencies are to be notified. One person should call or telegraph the Governor; another. the State Director of PPublic Safety; and a large number should remind the local sheriff and other police officials that they are expected to act firmly and quickly. 30j
10. She can investigate lynchings and probable lynchings which do occur in her county, with a view to doing everything possible to bring the guilty parties to justice and thus help to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies. Sat. 3-8-47

Some Facts About Lynching

The Tattler
Jacksonville, Fla.
Sat. 3-8-47
30j

How Many Since 1889?

Fairly reliable lynching statistics have been available since 1889. The figures on the number of persons lynched are as follows, 1889-1946 inclusive:

Negroes	3060
Whites	799
Total	3859

Lynching Has Declined

In the fifty-year period, 1889-1938, the number of Negroes lynched was 3033, or an average of 61 per year. The number of whites lynched was 797, or an average of 16 per year. In the past eight years, 1939-1946 inclusive, 27 Negroes and 2 whites have been lynched.

But It Iis Still Here

During the war lynching almost disappeared. In 1943 there were 3 lynchings; in 1944 only 2; in 1945 only 1. But in 1946 there were 6. All the victims were Negroes, and four of them weer slain in the Walton County, Georgia, atrocity of July 25. Lynchers have changed their tactics. They operate and, usually, in smal groups. It is becoming harder and harder to define "lynching."

Accusations Against Victims

Contrary to popular notions, less than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1889 were accused of assaults on women. The following figures on accusations will be of interest:

The Tattler

Rape and Attempted Rape	24%
Murder	37%
All others	39%

Keep Informed

For further information, read such books as **The Tragedy of Lynching**, by Arthur aper, and the pamphlets distributed by The Southern Regional Council. Keep up with current efforts to strengthen state and federal laws to control lynching, and let your elected representatives know where you stand.

Jacksonville, Fla.
Sat. 3-8-47

Published by
SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, INC.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia
Single copies free
200 copies, $1.00
500 copies, $2.00
1000 copies, $3.00

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This Time and Last Time

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier
30j
Sat. 6-14-47

Recurrence of mob violence during the past weeks is certainly calculated to arouse pessimism about the future of race relations in the United States.

Newspaper headlines have flaunted the sorry message of man's inhumanity to man and appropriate indignation has been aroused, with renewed demands for a Federal anti-lynching law.

It is interesting to contrast the period after World War I with that after World War II, for on the basis of statistics, America seems to have vastly improved in the direction of social justice.

After World War I there were several major and minor race riots which took a considerbale toll of lives, and there were lynchings galore in the South and elsewhere.

In the period after V-J Day there have been no race riots and only a few isolated instances of mob violence, although almost everyone thought there would be and many prophesied.

Of course there should not have been a single mob murder or disturbance of any kind and it is deplorable that there was a single one of these dastardly crimes, but the fact remains that there were far less than anybody expected, which certainly seems to indicate that the America of today is far less barbaric than that of 1919-1921.

Since it has now been established that a quarter century can bring about great changes for the better in race relations as in other things, it should spur all Americans of good will to redouble their efforts to make this a truly democratic country, and feel more sure that there is a great probability of success.

With the Department of Justice actually investigating lynchings (something unheard of a quarter-century ago) and lynchers actually being indicted and tried (even though acquitted) we can look forward to a new day, but we shall have to work for it while we are looking. Sat. 6-14-47

Yankee Crusaders

By John Temple Graves

News and Courier
Charleston, S.C.
30j

"The times are out of joint. O coursed spite! That ever I was born to set them right!"

Thirty-eight Massachusetts college students moved on Washington the other day hell-bent to end lynchings in the South. Illiteracy in enlightened Massachusetts is discouraging. What sort of teachers do these boys and girls have that they don't even know lynching has been ended as an institution? Maybe they've been told by one of those statisticians that lynching increased an enormous 500 per cent in the last year, without being told it increased from a total of one to a total of six. In the blessed town of Boston last month I noted half a dozen things more in need of attention from Massachusetts's young crusaders than the half dozen here. There are half a dozen of just about everything everywhere, when you come to think of it. In Chicago last fall I read of half a dozen evil killings in one day's paper. Sat. 7-11-47

When you consider that annual lynchings were 100 and more in other days and that we are shocked (and properly) now when as many as six occur, you do know that the foul thing as an institution is just about destroyed. We need to be on guard and enforce our laws, true, but we really do have the situation enough in hand to let these nobly-intentioned Massachusetts students go on with their studies now. If anything happens we can always call them. Sat. 7-11-47

SOUTH DOES IT AGAIN

What Happened to Willie Earle May Happen To Any Negro

30j

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

By BENJAMIN E. MAYS

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

Sat. 6-14-47

THE South is thin-skinned. It suffers with the inferiority complex. It cannot stand adverse criticism, however just and true the criticism may be. If the South behaves badly in a political campaign, it cries out "leave us alone." If the South is criticized for its poor educational systems, it says to the world, "stay out of our business." If the South lynches Negroes as was the case in Monroe, Ga., last July and as was the case in the more recent lynching of Willie Earle on Feb. 16, 1947, in South Carolina, the South still doesn't want to be criticized.

Mr. Mays

A dispatch from the United Press states that the defense counsel shouted "I think this is a perfect example of proving that the Department of Justice, Walter Winchell and other people of the North should keep their mouths out of the South's business." But as long as the South lynches and condones it, the South will not be left alone. When a people act in an uncivilized, undemocratic and un-Christian manner it will be and it should be criticized.

• • •

THE GREENVILLE CASE marks a new era in the history of lynching. Heretofore, the excuse for doing nothing about lynching has been, nobody knew who did it. For example, the best investigators in the world, the United States FBI, could not find out who lynched the four Negroes in Monroe, Ga., last July. That is, they said they couldn't find out. But the Willie Earle case was different. There was no secret about who did the lynching. The men confessed and literally boasted of the fact that they did it. The man who fired the fatal shot was known. And yet the situation is just as if they did not know the lynchers.

It all adds up to this: In many sections of the deep South in this year of our Lord 1947, there is no crime which a white man can commit against a Negro for which he will be convicted. And the Negro leader must not deceive himself. What happened to Willie Earle may happen to any Negro. The Negro has no rights in many areas which the white man is bound to respect. How long, O God, how long, will a man be treated worse than a beast just because his skin is black! Sat. 6-14-47

This denial of justice is not due wholly to ignorance. There is enough intelligence in the South to stop it. But the South isn't ready to stop it. There is enough religion in the South to stop it. But religion in the South isn't ready to stop it. I think the people are wrong who believe that the acquittal of the twenty-eight men in Greenville, S. C., will lead to a Federal law against lynching. Since the South rules the Congress, no anti-lynching bill will pass Congress if the South doesn't want it. And Southern Senators will kill the next anti-lynching bill by filibuster just as they have killed all such bills in the past. The East and the West do not care enough for the Negro, they do not love democracy enough nor do they respect Christianity sufficiently to offend the South by passing a bill the South doesn't want. Business and profit are more important than justice for Negroes. Sat. 6-14-47

IT IS ESSENTIALLY a religious problem. As long as the dominant group negates the personality of Negroes, considers his person of less value than the person of a white man, he is likely to be lynched. This is a challenge to education and particularly to religion. Can either of these make men better?

I do not know the circumstances surrounding the stabbing of the cab driver by Willie Earle. But I do know that Earle should have been tried by law and not by a mob. But if the court is a mere sham to legalize lynching, the results are the same. The judge's charge to the jury guaranteed acquittal: death, life sentence or acquittal. The jury was not going to kill or sentence for life white men who lynched a Negro.

PALMETTO STATE

- By -
Modjeska M. Simkins

Journal & Guide. Norfolk, Va.

"The Posse Gathered Rapidly At The Point Of 'Attack' And Spilled Over Into The Outlying Area"

30j

Sat. 6-14-47

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Clouds of dust enveloping districts north of Columbia mark the relentless tread of the spawn of the devil as more than 500 bred and born Palmetto state lynchers seek a supposed "nigra" who is alleged to have made at least three attempts to assault a certain white woman. The intruder wore gloves on his second visit. Venting his spleen following the first entry and beating (the woman was not criminally assaulted on either occasion), a local spokesman of the vermin type swore vengeance against "nigras" who attack "our white women," and declared that although he does not believe in lynching, he is sometimes almost persuaded to join the mob.

After his brainstorm, the posse gathered rapidly near the point of "attack" and spilled over into the outlying area. Numerous carloads of dusty, sweat-sour, often hungry-looking, self-righteous, self-appointed protectors of the chastity and virtue of "our pure white women" endangered life and limb of hundreds of motorists as they sped through every highway and byroad in the selected area.

For three days this posse, including adolescents of both sexes were unable to find hide, hair, scent, or odor of the non-existent "brute." In summing up the matter, a white neighbor of the "victim" said, "He just washed his face at the first branch and joined the mob." Unlike gullible thousands throughout the South, this man has refused to believe the "junk" from the beginning.

Sat. 6-14-47

If it were possible, the mobsters now would be in an embarrassing position. The general public concedes that no Negro made these attacks. If, as the victim states, she was attacked by a person with a black face, it is plainly a "burnt cork" case. Her outcry has endangered the lives of scores of defenseless and innocent Negroes. It is high time that the third degree and an indictment for perjury be handed out to those who deliberately incite to riot,

A recent case in Savannah, Ga., shows the length to which some of these culprits will perjure and incriminate themselves even to throw blame on Negro men. Furthermore, if posses are thought necessary, they should be deputized by sheriffs and carry written evidence to that effect. Then they would be known and could be held accountable for their acts. Unless law enforcement officials, including the governor, are intent on setting up schools for lynch apprenticeship, it is certainly inadvisable to have in the posse "a boy who appeared to be about 12, on duty armed with a shotgun nearly as tall as himself."

Remedy for Lynchings

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Editor Constitution: L. B. Tarpley's and Linton S. Johnson's recent articles on lynchings were written with great emphasis. Too much is said lately concerning lynchings and not enough of the causes and remedies. Lynching generally follows a criminal deflowering of an innocent girl or young woman. Few causes and possible remedies of these terrifying crimes may be attributed to various factors: (1) Laxity in racial segregation, (2) unescorted, partially clad teen-age girls, (3) lustful sex pictures.

30j

If used correctly, racial segregation is not discrimination. Only a social custom cherished by majority Southern populace and fast becoming a national problem. However, powerful cliques are now trying to demolish this social custom. Federal anti-lynch law is encouraged by this clique in order to protect the "civil liberties" of perpetrators of sex crimes on innocent girls and women. Improper residential zones of racial segregation is another ever-growing menace. Federal law, advocating racial amalgamation, would exacerbate matters. To be blunt, this intermeddling of our established social custom will eventually lead to a condition of utter disorder and confusion; namely, rape, robbery, murder and inevitable lynchings. Thurs. 6-26-47

Next cause of sex crimes is "modern style" of living. Unescorted, partially clad, enticing teenage girls in beer parlors, juke joints, questionable dance halls and isolated places are prey for sexually unbalanced males.

No civilized man would advocate mob violence only to avenge a woman's virtue. Lynching will continue as long as criminal assaults prevail. Assaults on innocent girls and young women, regardless to race, creed or color, deserves no "civil liberties" protection. Thurs. 6-26-47

Put more stress on causes and remedies of criminal attacks, and lynching will expunge itself into oblivion. While lynching gives stern warning to would-be attackers, it also brings infamy to the community.

CLAYTON WARREN.

Marietta.

Tradition Blocks Mob Convictions

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.

AP Writer Says Juries Tolerate Lynchers

99-1 ODDS

67 Sentenced in South Since 1900—Record

30j

Sat. 6-21-47

ATLANTA (ANP) — Lynching is a crime tolerated by "Southern tradition," and hence the main reason why Southern juries are reluctant to return a verdict of "guilty" against members of white mobs brought to trial for taking the law into their own hands.

This statement was made by Romney Wheeler, Associated Press writer, here last week in pointing out that lynchers in the South have had a 99-1 chance of going free, whether the mob victim is guilty or not of a crime.

Convictions Possible But

Answering the question of whether the South can convict its lynchers, he said, "Despite South Carolina's recent acquittal of 28 white men, 26 of whom acknowledged participation, the answer is 'Yes.'

"It must be followed with prompt qualification: Convictions are rare and unlikely." Lynching has diminished rapidly since 1922, he said, but the brutal business of rope and trial by fury has persisted in the South.

A report by Tuskegee Institute, which keeps the nearest thing to official statistics, shows that 1973 persons have been lynched in the United States since 1900. Out of this number, [illegible] 82 convictions have ben ob[illegible]

6[illegible]th

The major[illegible] the lynchings were in the South. Of the 82 convictions, 67 were in Southern States. 6-21-47 Sat

James H. Chadburn, formerly of the University of North Carolina law department, says the reason for the few convictions stems from the refusal of persons to testify, trial juries act upon local prejudice instead of considered evidence and grand juries frequently refuse to indict.

What the Records Say

Holder of the best record for convictions is Alabama where in 1919 and 1920, 31 lynchers were convicted, 28 of whom received sentences ranging from $100 fines to 15 years in prison. The record shows one conviction for every 10 persons lynched since 1900. No convicted lyncher, however, has ever been sentenced to death.

Georgia is the only Southern State to have meted out straight life sentences for lynching. These reported were assessed, in 1930 when Thomas County had two lynchings in three days. Oklahoma, a border State, sentenced seven convicted lynchers to life imprisonment in 1922.

Mobs Are Forerunners of Anarchy

30j

THE authorities of the several Southern States where prisoners were shielded recently from actual or potential mobs should arrange for trials of the accused men as speedily as possible. These men were accused of rape or attempted rape, and they must be brought to justice, sternly and inexorably, if they are guilty. They should, of course, be acquitted, if innocent. Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mobs which seek to take the law into their own hands are the forerunners of anarchy. Whenever a mob sets itself up as judge, jury and executioner, it undermines the foundations of the State. A letter in today's Voice of the People takes the position that in the recent Greenville, S. C., case, "the only 'justice' was the returning to one person [i.e. the man who was lynched] the treatment he had given another." We had hoped that such sentiments were a thing of the past in the South. Mon. 6-2-47

Our correspondent assumes that WILLIE EARLE was guilty of fatally stabbing T. W. BROWN, Greenville taxi driver. On what is this assumption based? EARLE had been arrested as a suspect, but he had not confessed to the authorities. One or more members of the mob which lynched him claimed that after they had seized him, he admitted his guilt, but no other evidence was produced.

A commission which made a study of all the lynchings that had occurred since 1890, under the chairmanship of GEORGE FORT MILTON, then editor of the Chattanooga *News*, reported in 1931 that there is real doubt of the guilt of at least half of the victims of mob violence. It also reported, contrary to prevailing impressions, that fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 had even been accused of rape.

Fortunately here in Virginia we have been far freer from lynchings than almost any other Southern State. The last undoubted lynching to occur in the Old Dominion took place in 1927, in Wise County. There was a suspicious episode in 1932, when a man was found hanging from a tree, after attacking a farmer and his wife in Fauquier County, but the coroner returned a verdict of suicide. So Virginia has surely not had a lynching in 15 years, and probably not in 20. This State and North Carolina have by far the best lynching record in the South, and are in a tie for first place. Each has had exactly 99 lynchings since 1882, according to figures compiled by Tuskegee Institute. Kentucky and Tennessee have each had more than twice as many, while Mississippi and Georgia have piled up the highest totals of all, with 573 and 521, respectively. Richmond, Va.

It is good that Virginia has so superior a record, and that mob lawlessness is so definitely on the decline throughout the South. Mob violence is antisocial and uncivilized, no matter where it occurs. And the point needs to be made that a mob of pickets in Detroit or Philadelphia or Los Angeles which turns over automobiles and beats up men who are trying to enter their own offices or places of work is just as mob-minded as a gang of lynchers in Mississippi. They may not kill anybody, but they are guilty of taking the law into their own hands, which is the primary crime. Mon. 6-2-47

It ought not to be necessary to say all over again that the police and the courts were created to enforce the law and to try those accused of violating it. Any mob, North or South, which ignores that basic fact is a disgrace to our nation.

To Our Best People

30j

News & Courier

The Americans, having been painfully shocked by the gang murder in Greenville county, properly shocked, have completed, one supposes, the deliverance of their indignation and for the time will be surcease from the distant rumbling about it. Some of the rumbling may have improving results. The killing of the negro was a wretched and cowardly deed. All gang murders are cowardly. Sat. 5-31-47

Our "best people" in South Carolina have expressed themselves. Now, The News and Courier directs the attention of them to another and serious subject.

In an Associated Press dispatch, Columbia, May 29, relating to the search for a negro accused of a criminal attempt, a white woman his intended victim, is this sentence: Charleston, S.C.

"It was the fifth negro-white rape assault case in the Carolinas within a week."

Forty years ago four or five lynchings in the Carolinas would have followed the assaults in a week.

The News and Courier holds to opinion that crimes of the kind mentioned are at least as atrocious as are lynchings—and in no case does The News and Courier defend or excuse lynchers.

It would be as well, it would be wise and prudent, for our best people, lest they be again ashamed for their state, to busy themselves to prevent crimes that incite to iynching as well as to other felonies.

We say to them that if the "crime against woman" shall not be made rare, the crime of lynching will be common again and will not be checked by federal courts or anything short of an occupation army sent into the South. Sat. 5-31-47

Both crimes can be made rare. When it shall be habitual and shall be known that the assailant of a woman will be tried within a week or two weeks after his arrest and executed in another week or two, the excuse for lynching (it breeds excuse for lynching for other offences) will end. That will end the lynchings.

Further, The News and Courier reminds our best people that the danger to women is for the most part to those who are workers, who are not of the well conditioned, the well protected. They are women who are left alone or who must walk alone to their daily tasks. They are working women or wives and sisters of working men.

There is a chance that the five negroes now under arrest, one or all of them, if punished, will not be punished until a long time has passed. There will be "law's delays." There will be uplifting associations contributing money to hire astute attorneys to appeal to this and that court. The friends and kindred of a poor woman will lose their patience. They are not all of the educated and enlightened section of society. The law's delays do not delay lynching.

So we say to our best people that they would do well to turn their attention from the Greenville gang murder and put their minds on the other infamous crimes, five reported in a week in the Carolinas. They can, if they will, revolutionize criminal court procedure. They can make it proceed. It would require from them exertions, militant, inconvenient, unpleasant, sometimes dangerous.

If our best people won't do what they can and that which would take the disgraceful murders called lynchings out of the life of their state, they would as well hold their tongues and typewriters when ruffians foregather and do murder. Sat. 5-31-47

Lawlessness in Carolinas

30j

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Digest of Virginia Editorial Opinion

Gathered by Ben Burwell Johnston

Richmond, Va.

UNDER the cheerful caption, "Optimism Justified," the Danville Register has this to say about recent events in an adjacent State: Sun. 6-1-47

"With Godwin (Buddy) Bush, the young Northampton County, N. C., Negro, still alive after escaping from a mob which had taken him from the county jail at Jackson, the South has been spared, by the grace of God and a desperate chance taken, a repetition of the Willie Earle lynching at Pickens, S. C.

"North Carolina's fine record for avoiding lynchings has not been marred, although in this instance it was the victim rather than the law-enforcement agencies which made that record continue.

"Governor Cherry promises action against the men who invaded the jail and, at gunpoint, took Bush from his cell, where he was held in custody pending a hearing on a charge of attempted rape. North Carolina is jealous of its good record of sending to prison those who engage in mob action. In this case, since there was no lynching, they are guilty of kidnaping.

"When Solicitor Ernest Tyler suggested the possibility that Bush was still alive, it sounded far-fetched. Most mobs have their victim in such condition before he even gets out of the jail into their waiting cars that he could not run, if given the chance. His optmism, based on evidence not then made public, was justified, as the later disclosure of Bush's surrender to the FBI sustained. It makes a surprising and happy ending. The law can can now take its course against Bush and his would-be lynchers.

Another View

The ending, happy or otherwise, is not recognized by the Lynchburg News, which comments: Sun. 6-1-47

"What the North Carolina authorities will do, the entire affair considered, it is difficut to to say. They clearly have two cases to settle. Bush stoutly protests his innocence and there is little or no evidence as to the identity of any of the men who composed the mob. The Negro, of course, will be heard and, according to Governor Cherry, every possible effort will be made to apprehend and punish the men who took him from jail apparently with every intention of doing away with him in an illegal manner. But the latter must be identified and handed over to officers of the law. That may be regarded as a very difficult if not a practically impossible task.

"There is ample doubt that Bush is guilty of the crime of which he is suspected, but there is none that a mob was formed or that it attempted to lynch a man after removing him from a place of legal detention. It is a question whether or not both of these cases will be thoroughly probed, but there is none that they should be or that it is the sworn duty of the North Caroline officers to see that it is done."

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, asserting that the evidence against Bush is flimsy, suggests that a judge and jury will clear him. The Virginian-Pilot continues:

"The second of the State's unfinished jobs is likely to prove the more difficult. It is to discover the members of the midnight murder party and make them answerable for their attempt to kill a prisoner of the law and cheat him of a trial by judge and jury. Yet it is a job which North Carolina, committed by its own good record in dealing with lynchers and would-be lynchers, cannot afford to lay down until it is definitely frustrated by the inability of its criminal investigators to trace the abductors.

* * *

"The victim's flight from his abductors has spared North Carolina the disgrace of a lynching. It has not spared the State the disgrace of an act of mob violence directed to the consummation of a lynching. That crime remains to be dealt with along with the supineness of a jailer."

The Greenville Case

OF THE actions of an earlier and more efficent mob, a little bit south of North Carolina, the Bristol Herald-Courier remarks: Sun. 6-1-47

"Public sentiment in this country, and the sense of justice of the American people as well, was outraged by the acquittal of more than a score of men accused in connection with the lynching of a young Negro in Greenville, S. C. It was a brutal lynching in which the victim of the mob of white men, was shot and stabbed and mutilated. Since most of the mobsters acknowledged participation in this crime, committed in defiance of constituted authority, the action of the jury in finding them not guilty can only be explained on the ground of race prejudice, which can have no part in the proper administration of laws to which members of all races are subject. Sun. 6-1-47

"Often in time past this newspaper has expressed the belief that the Constitution gives the Federal government the right, if it does not impose upon the government the duty, to act in cases of this kind. When lynching mobs can operate with impunity, what becomes of the constitutional promise of 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?' or of the constitutional guarantee that no citizen shall be deprived of life or property without due process of law? Both the promise and the guarantee become empty phrases if the Federal government cannot intervene in the interest of justice, and in defense of the integrity of the Constitution, when a mob perpetrates a lynching.

"Down in South Carolina the law made an honest effort to punish the Greenville mob. It failed, and now Attorney-General Clark will look into the possibility of civil action against lynchers. He also may fail, but these are hopeful signs of better things than mob lawlessness."

Less serene and less optimistic is the Norfolk Journal and Guide. The Journal and Guide, published by Negroes for Negroes, thus concludes its editorial on "The South Carolina Lynching Verdict":

"There will be no change in South Carolina or in Georgia or any other deep Southern State on the question of the Negro's right to due process of law until States learn a sense of moral and legal responsibility and until practicing lawyers cease to utilize a lynching trial in a court of law to inflame the passions of a trial jury and incite it to condone mob action, thus virtually lynching not only the accused on trial, but lynching the very thing on which the safety, the peace, and the happiness of its white citizens, as well as its black citizens, fundamentally rests—the majesty of the law."

Virginia's Record

The Portsmouth Star touches on one of the minor aspects of the mob-murder case. The Star asserts:

"There is no reason why the whole South should hang its head because of what has happened in that unfortunate town (Greenville, S. C.). Does New York hang its head because Detroit has a rice riot?"

The Progress-Index, commenting on the Star's editorial, calls the above statement "a valid point," but adds that "it will be a very hard one to sell." The Progress-Index continues:

"The Star goes on to say that for more than 20 years there has been no lynching within the State of Virginia and attributes this to its 'strict Byrd Law, which makes any member of a lynching mob liable for murder.' Undoubtedly the stringent law sponsored by Senator Byrd has had a great deal to do with the record, although since the Senator is not in the good graces of the professional, breast-beating liberals it is probably not fashionable to give him credit for his leadership. Sun. 6-1-47

"As healthy as Virginia's anti-lynching statute is and as heartily as it can be recommended to other States as an example, there is probably more involved in the picture than a law. At least it has been supplemented by better race relations and those tangible factors which make people less likely to take the law into their own hands, always, of course, at the risk of punishing the innocent. Virginia's record is good enough to justify resentment in being bracketed with States which have not been similarly successful in eliminating lynching, especially since the State is now a favorite subject of invidious comparisons, but even at that we should do well to avoid complacency. The mob psychology which manifests itself so strikingly and terribly in lynchings is a universal phenomenon which, in different forms, can sometimes be seen in those places which are now feeling most pious about the Greenville trial."

Richmond Times Dispatch

'Justice' at Greenville

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Yesterday (May 23) picking up The Times-Dispatch, I was filled with increasing alarm and amazement. On Page 15 was printed a story of a Negro in Georgia who had been sentenced to the electric chair for raping two white mothers. Turning over to Page 16, I read the final chapter of a case in which a Negro murdered a white man in South Carolina. Page 18 had two similar stories: A Negro was being held for slitting a white woman's throat in Arkansas, and in Maryland a Negro had been sentenced to hanging for raping a white woman. Mon. 6-2-47 30j

It was on Page 20, however, the editorial page, that I read the most ironical and disgustingly appalling editorial entitled, "A Jury Betrays Southern Justice." What a foolish title, and what a ditto editorial. In this article an attempt was made to berate the jury who acquitted the defendants in the recent Greenville lynching case.. By its insinuations, it would have the public believe that 28 men should have been sentenced to jail because they avenged the cold-blooded, premeditated murder of a fellow-worker by the death of the murderer! It seems incredible that 12 American citizens, who were much more closely connected with the case and a hundred times more aware of the importance of their decision than the author of the editorial should reach the same conclusion, while this editor objected so radically.

In my opinion, the only "justice" in the Greenville case was the returning to one person the treatment he had given another. The only "betrayal" was the betrayal of an editor's lust for benevolent prestige against his inner conscience. Richmond, Va.

HIRAM A. DULANEY.

Charlottesville. Mon. 6-2-47

[Editor's Note: The foregoing is commented on editorially today under the caption, "Mobs Are Forerunners of Anarchy."]

Atlanta Constitu

Lynching

30j gen

Editor Constitution: Let reader Clayton Warren (and those who feel like he does) consider: (1) Neither sex nor rape was involved in the two best-known postwar lynch cases—Monroe, Ga., and Greenville, S. C. F. 7-4-47

2. Suspicion, however unfounded, can fall on any man or any woman any time. If such suspicion should fall on reader Warren, would he like to be disposed of accordnig to well-founded evidence in a sober and regular trial, or according to the whiskey-whipped emotions of self-appointed gang leaders? Once lynchings become a custom, and the confessed instigators go scot-free (as in Greenville), would his white color protect reader Warren?

WILLIAM H. SACHS.

Atlanta.

Lynching

30j gen

Editor Constitution: Recent letters excusing lynching on the grounds that any man guilty of rape deserves to be lynched overlook the fact that recent lynchings have had nothing to do with attacks on white women. In Walton County, a white man was stabbed by a Negro, and a mob shot not only him but an innocent Negro with him and the wives of both. This was not a case of avenging a white woman, but the Gestapo-like slaying of innocent people. The recent Carolina lynching also grew out of a fight between a Negro and a white man.

Yet the idea is growing in my mind that the jury which freed the guilty mob was thinking not of a Negro guilty only of fighting but of Negroes in general whom they have been taught to believe are likely at the first opportunity to attack a white woman. This is not true, but stories of rape by Negroes are told and retold till it is hard to realize that by and large the Negro is a hard-working man intent not on lust and rape, but the difficult business of earning a living. If statistics were available on the subject, we whites might be embarrassed to find criminal assault committed oftener by white men than by Negroes. Atlanta Ga

LUNETTA R. BROCK.

Marietta. Fri 7-4-47

This Afternoon 30j 12-15-47, mon

JNO. TEMPLE GRAVES

SINCE TUSKEGEE Institute is the more-or-less official national record-keeper on lynchings [it reported six last year], D. H. Markstein, of Birmingham, has asked it for a ruling on whether the recent slaying of a Chicago policeman and his wife by gangsters should not be included in this year's total. "You will note," he says, "this policeman and his wife were way-laid by an automobile load of gangsters and their bodies riddled." And he points out, familiarly, that efforts to bring the "lynchers" to justice have failed. 12-15-47

30j Macon News

BUT DOESN'T lynching involve a will to punish for an alleged crime, even though the punishing is done illegally? The Chicago gangsters were not taking the law into their own hands. They were doing their murdering for other reasons. It's murder either way, of course, but not lynch murder.

30j 1947

FBI Can Seize Kidnapers by Law but Not Lynchers

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

30j gen

By RALPH MATTHEWS

Sat. 6-14-47

WASHINGTON (AFRO National Bureau)—If a person is kidnapped for money the FBI can step in, but if he is kidnaped for lynching purposes only no Federal crime has been committed.

This is the reason why the FBI was unable to press charges against the seven suspects identified as the men who kidnapped Godwin (Buddy) Bush from the jail in Rich Square, N.C., last week, the AFRO learned.

FBI men are still on the scene helping to compile evidence against the suspects, but, according to a department spokesman, no Federal law involving a violation of civil liberties (as they now exist), could be uncovered.

Must Prove Conspiracy

To proceed on this ground, it would be necessary to prove that the jailer or sheriff conspired with the would-be lynchers to carry out their scheme.

Since the suspects are reported to have confessed to taking the youth out of the jail, the AFRO sought to determine why they could not be prosecuted under the Lindbergh law against kidnapping

The answer is that the law does not cover lynching, but applies only to attempts to extort money

Does Not Cover Lynching

In this connection, there are a number of laws dealing with kidnapping, but all cover the money angle and not the act of physical kidnapping itself.

State Line Crossing

The law also covers the transporting of persons across State lines, but has been interpreted literally to assume that, if a person is detained more than 48 hours he could have reasonably been so transported, even though it may be proved that he did not leave the boundaries of the State.

Conviction of kidnapping calls for the death penalty. The law approved by the 73rd Congress May 18, 1934, reads:

"Whoever shall knowingly transport or cause to be transported, or aid or abet in transporting, in interstate or foreign commerce, any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnapped, abducted, or carrie away by any means whatsoever and held for ransom or reward or otherwise;

Except, in the case of a minor, by a parent thereof, shall, upon conviction, be punished (1) by death if the verdict of the jury shall so recommend, provided that the sentence of death shall not be imposed by the court if, prior to its imposition, the kidnapped person has been liberated unharmed

"Sec. 2. The term 'interstate or foreign commerce' as used herein, shall include transportation from one State Territory, or the District of Columbia to another State, Territory, or the District of Columbia or to a foreign country, or from a foreign county to any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia. Sat. 6-14-47

"Sec. 3. If two or more persons enter into an agreement, confederation, or conspiracy to violate the provisions of the foregoing Act and do any overt act toward carrying out such unlawful agreement, confederation, or conspiracy, such person or persons shall be punished in like manner as hereinbefore provided by this Act."

N.Y. Protestant Church Urges Antilynch Law

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

30j gen

sat. 6-28-47

Lillian Smith Also Lashes Mob Violence, Says It Casts Shadow Across World

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Congressional leaders last Friday received a resolution urging the enactment of Federal antilynching legislation providing criminal penalties against local law enforcement officers failing to prosecute lynchers. At the same time, Lillian Smith, author of "Strange Fruit," spoke out against lynchings.

The resolution coming from the Human Relations Commission of the Protestant Council of New York, said, "Lynching is a fundamental denial of human rights; a defiance of law and justice. It is a shame of America which, flaunted before the world does much to undermine faith in democracy.

4,932 Lynchings

"Since 1882 there have been 4,932 lynchings and in 99.2 percent, no punishment resulted. Because the police power of the state is so obviously and flagrantly derelict in the prevention of lynching, lynching, like kidnapping, should be subject to Federal action." sat. 6-28-47

In an article written for the ADA World, official organ of the Americans for Democratic Action organization, Miss Smith said: "Tragic events have piled up a tall monument to racial hate this past year. Most of them have occurred close to my home here in Georgia.

Dark Shadow

"Walton County with its four lynched; Greenville, S.C., where a jury set 25 men free who had confessed to a lynching. Now the attempted lynching in Jackson, N.C. Three small events that cast a long shadow across the world. sat. 6-28-47

"There is one right thing to do. We must stop mob violence. But we in the South are not strong enough to swing this job alone, and we must face up to our weakness. We need the full co-operation of the entire nation."

General

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

ENGLISH LIBERALS

Writer's Account of S. Carolina Lynching Proves Distasteful

sat. 6-28-47

By HORACE R. CAYTON

30j gen

7682

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

IN this week's issue of the New Yorker Magazine there is a piece entitled "Opera in Greenville, which is an extended account of the lynching of Willie Earle in the small town of Greenville, S. C. Just a word to those of you who are not familiar with the New Yorker. It is a super-sophisticated publication which has probably the best and cleverest writing of any magazine in the country.

Mr. Cayton

It also has ads from the swanky shops of New York, Palm Beach, and Hollywood. But don't misjudge it because of this for it is very liberal-conscious and its editorial comments, carried in a section entitled "Talk of the Town," are as liberal as those of Marshall Fields' PM, though, perhaps, a bit more whimsical.

Recently it has become even more "social-conscious" and devoted an entire issue to a report on the effects of the atom bomb on Hiroshima, which was, perhaps, the best bit of reporting this country has seen in many a year. sat. 6-28-47

* * *

ITS TREATMENT of the Negro question is sound, sophisticated and sincere. Reaching as it does a group of wealthy and intellectual people, it's a greater force for good—and by that I mean decency in race relations—than any other publication with which I am familiar. Its editors, an adventurous crowd, decided to cover the Willie Earle lynching and sent for Rebecca West, noted and talented English writer, to write the story.

These two facts bespeak the interest of the magazine, for I imagine it was at no little expense that they secured the services of Rebecca West. Certainly it was an expensive project to bring her over from England and stake her a trip to South Carolina.

* * *

I WAS ALL SET to enjoy (perhaps that's not the right word, for a story on a lynching could never be enjoyable) Miss West's account, but somehow it's left me with a dark brown taste in my mouth. I don't doubt Miss West's sincerity or her ability, but was revolted by her great compassion. Compassion is an admirable human emotion but it can be taken just a step too far, and in my opinion, Miss West not only took a step, but a running jump, beyond what was necessary. For the first time in many years I threw the New Yorker down in disgust.

Maybe it's my dislike of the mentality of the English liberals who sit and suffer, and, while they sit and suffer, live well on the profits that they derive from what they choose to call the backward people of the world. Some few months ago the head of the information services for the colonies visited my home and his complacent smugness over the position of the colonies was nauseating. Sat. 6-28-47

* * *

HIS POINT of view was something like this: "We have the oral responsibility for looking after these backward people and we're going to do the best we can to treat them fairly. But in the meantime they must stay within the confines of the British Empire and we will continue to exploit them and their land in the interest of England. We hope that some day they can take their place in the family of nations and, of course, in the British imperial system. Until then we will look after these primitive children."

There was a group of Negro intellectuals present and the discussion got nowhere because this English civil servant failed utterly to realize that the American Negro had set his goal at complete freedom, emancipation and equality. Though he had to accept subordination by the American white man, he did not approve of the theory of the white man's burden.

MISS WEST'S article struck me as having something in common with this gentleman. She, too, was shaking her rather delicate head and saying: "It's a tremendous problem with deep roots in history and it'll take long years to work out. I'm sorry that injustices are being done and that man is inhumane toward his fellow man, but the oppressors are human beings just as well as are the oppressed."

All of this is true, but if we are to change the world, abolish the corrupt and oppressive colonial system of England and the caste system of the United States, compassion for lynchers and for imperialists is not enough. Sat. 6-28-47

There has to be a flame of moral indignation at injustice, not a compassionate understanding that lynchers and imperialists are also human beings who love their mothers—perhaps even their mother-in-laws—and also have their personal problems.

* * *

FOR SOMETIME I have been saying that the Negro is at war with his environment—that he, like a soldier in combat, is fighting against great odds to establish himself as a human being in a society which will not allow him dignity, opportunity, or the rewards which would accrue to other citizens. It makes little difference whether those people who deny them these opportunities are kind and sweet and gentle and love their children.

When one goes into a restaurant and is told, "We don't serve Negroes," the tenderness that the individual who makes such a statement might feel toward his loved ones has nothing to do with the case. Perhaps Richard Wright has stated this better than any other writer when he said: "Does the personality of a soldier coming at you over the top of a trench matter?"

What did it matter to Willie Earle when he was being shot and beaten to death by a mob of taxi drivers that there was tenderness in the personalities of these men toward their mothers, sisters and sweethearts?

A Veteran Unavenged

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier Sat. 3-15-47

Last Aug. 8th, a Minden, La., mob beat to death a veteran of the Second World War for democracy and threw his tortured body into a sluggish bayou.

The veteran was a colored American, John C. Jones, who had answered Uncle Sam's call for red-blooded men to fight for democracy abroad, even though he had never experienced democracy at home.

30x

Another colored man, Albert Harris, also severely beaten, managed to escape to northern Michigan from whence he eventually returned, with the backing of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to testify against the lynchers, two of whom were deputy sheriffs.

Last week in Shreveport, La., a Federal district court jury cleared the five alleged lynchers after less than two hours deliberation, despite the evidence against them.

So, another veteran of World War II who emerged unscathed from the holocaust has been done to death on his native soil and has gone unavenged.

While justice weeps, the five lynchers walk the streets of Minden as free men, while the twelve "good" men and true who sat on the jury are going their way with clear consciences.

This sad case illustrates two things: the difficulty of getting a Southern jury to convict the lynchers of a Negro, and the urgent necessity of passing a Federal anti-lynching law.

If such a law existed, Webster Parish could be fined several thousand dollars by the Federal Government, and the family of the lynch victim could be recompensed in part for the death of their relative.

But unfortunately there is no law of this kind and powerful political interests in Washington are determined that there shall be no such law, if days of filibustering in the Senate of the United States can prevent it.

Which shows the necessity for an immediate change in the Senate rules to outlaw the filibuster evil by invoking closure of debate by vote of a majority of the Senators.

Unhappily, a two-thirds vote is required to amend the rules to prevent filibustering, and there are enough Southern votes in the Senate to prevent this.

Worse, there always will be sufficient Southern senatorial votes for this purpose as long as the totalitarian one-party system sustained by the white primary exists in most of the Southern States. Sat. 3-15-47

Constant agitation against the national disgrace, however, has been having a slow but sure effect, as indicated by the steady decline of lynching down through the years and the fact that all but the most unreconstructed Southern rebels are on the defensive against the rising condemnation of the rest of the country.

This agitation must be kept up and anti-lynching bills introduced again and again in both Houses of the Congress until the growing national consciousness of the Nation finally rebels against the one-party Southern oligarchy and destroys it forever.

It's Up to Washington

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

THERE is a new terror raging against the Negro people in the South. 30j sat. 5-31-47

The freeing of the lynchers of Willie Earle in Greenville, S. C., has emboldened the Klan's disciples in their murderous efforts to keep the Negro people degraded and in a constant state of fear, a fit subject for super-exploitation.

Thus it is that in this post-Memorial Day editorial we are forced to record the fact that the things for which our Civil War dead gave their lives 85 years ago have not yet been realized.

It is plain that the law enforcement agencies of the Southern states will not or cannot protect the Negro people from this terror, which threatens to break out into wholesale massacre in some of the tense areas.

So far the federal authorities have kept hands off. They have turned lynch suspects over to the state authorities, and generally left the "protection" of the Negro people to these feudal-minded state agencies.

The federal government is thus abdicating its responsibility to protect both the civil liberties and the lives of the millions of Negro citizens in these Southern states. sat. 5-31-47

The hands-off attitude should be ended. Federal prosecution of the confessed lynchers of Willie Earle in South Carolina, of Buddy Bush in North Carolina, is necessary if the wave of terror is to be broken. This prosecution cannot take place before Southern juries.

Either it has to take place in the North or the federal courts must act summarily to protect the lives, the liberty, the property of Negro Americans.

The conviction and proper punishment of these murderers—which means their execution—will help to block further lynchings.

In addition, Congress needs to get down to business at once to see that anti-lynch law is established. Bills have been introduced by Rep. Case of N. J. and by Sens. Wagner and Morse which deserve wide public support.

The Senate and House committees involved should start public hearings without delay. There is dynamite in any further failure or hesitancy to act.

Federal Laws Permit FBI to Aid Lynching Probes

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

30j Sat. 6-7-47

Action in Recent Cases in the Carolinas Based Upon Data Pointing to Conspiracy

WASHINGTON

If a State officer—like a jailer or sheriff—conspires with a mob bent on lynching a prisoner, the FBI can take a hand in such a case and bring certain charges.

This is so because there are Federal laws supporting the Constitution which make it a crime:

For a State official of any kind to conspire with anyone to deprive a man of his rights under the Constitution. The penalties under these laws run from one to 10 years in jail, and fines of $1000 to $5000.

FBI Action Cited

The FBI can move in promptly—when it learns of a lynching—on the theory that perhaps a State officer was involved. If it finds after investigation that it can take no action under Federal law, the FBI can do something else:

It can turn over to State authorities, for action under State laws, whatever information it has been able to secure. This the FBI did in the recent lynching in Greenville, S.C. Sat. 6-7-47

Last week, again, in North Carolina, the FBI provided officials with information on which seven white men were charged with kidnapping a suspect in an alleged criminal attack case in Jackson, N.C.

Young Research Specialist Shows Technique Differs

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Wed. 3-19-47

30j

CHICAGO. — (ANP) — No less than 120 persons were lynched in the United States in 1946.

That is the finding of Joseph Johnson, a young local research specialist, who bases his findings on a new definition of lynching. Johnson took issue in his 1946 lynch report with Tuskegee Institute's reported six lynchings for last year as well as with the NAACP's report of eight for 1946.

"The Tuskegee report keeps to the traditional idea as to what is a lynching (a mob that kills a person or persons)," Johnson said, while "the NAACP breaks with the traditional idea to some extent" by admitting "there is much evidence pointing to the fact there actually have been many more."

Wed. 3-19-47

Explains Withholding

Johnson, who explained that neither Tuskegee nor the NAACP deliberately withheld the actual number of persons lynched last year, gave two reasons why a large number of lynchings was not reported. "One reason is that the number of 'concealed' lynchings is unknown," he said, and "the other reason is that the prevailing idea as to what constitutes a lynching is incorrect in many important respects."

Stressing that to "lynch does not necessarily mean to kill," the research specialist said lynching technique has changed from 1933 to the present. He defined lynching as "organized and directed extra-legal and semi-official violence by a portion, sometimes the majority, of the members of the social community, acting under the influence and in accordance with the property interest of the southern poll-taxers and the big industrialists.

Any Group Act

"Any act or acts, no matter what the nature, that are committed by a group so organized and directed is a lynching," Johnson declared. "For example, if a person was whipped, beaten, shot, wounded; killed — shot, hanged, burned, cut, drowned, castrated, and raped by a group so organized and directed such acts were lynchings." Wed. 3-19-47

Vigilantism, directed against Jews and trade unionists, is also lynching. "Lynchings, therefore, although directed mainly against the Negro people, is not exclusively a Negro problem," he said.

30j 1947 Italy

7683

Sicilian Miners Attempt Lynching

(30j)

Advertiser
Montgomery, Italy Ala.

ROME, Nov. 19.—(AP)—A crowd of 1,000 miners and peasants overpowered police at Caltanissetta in Sicily Wednesday, attempted to lynch the chief of police, and wrecked the headquarters of two right wing parties.

The chief suffered a possible skull fracture and several policemen were beaten. Heavy reinforcements of police and carabineri were sent from Palermo before order was restored to the city of 50,000 in the center of Sicily. Thu 11-20-47

The miners were demanding electric lights in mines, aid to their cooperatives and steps to relieve unemployment. The peasants asked immediate transfer to them of certain estates.

Gino Cortese, Communist deputy to the Sicilian regional assembly, haranguing the crowd after order was restored, warned there would be "other grave events" unless provincial authorities heeded the demands.

In Naples, Minister of the Interior Mario Scelba said there was little possibility the Communists and their supporters would abandon their program of violence which has plagued Italy for a week. He predicted "difficult days ahead." [illegible]-20-47